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Admission Of Israel To UN Deadlock

Paris, Dec. 17.—The Security Council tonight reached a deadlock on whether to admit Israel to the United Nations. Support for Israel's application fell two short of the necessary seven votes. Russia and the United States had supported the application but Britain had sought an indefinite postponement of a decision.

Soviet Russia indicated she would use the veto if necessary against the British proposal and also against a compromise French proposal to shelve a decision for a month.

The United States, the Soviet Union, the Ukraine, Argentina and Colombia voted for Israel's immediate admission. Syria alone voted against, the remaining five members of the Council abstaining.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

The British proposal for indefinite shelving claimed only four votes—Britain, Belgium, China and Syria.

The French proposal for one month's delay was supported by Britain, France, Canada, China, Belgium and Syria.

In these two votes, the remaining members of the Council abstained. Belgium was the only other country to support a Syrian proposal that the International Court of Justice be asked to pronounce on the legality of the Israeli State.

After the meeting, the Israeli representative, Mr. Aubrey Eban, said the application for membership would be filed anew "at the first possible opportunity."

Before the vote, the Soviet representative, Mr. Jacob Malik, told the Council that there was no reason for postponing a decision. He asked Britain to give up her "usual policy of favouritism for certain requests for admission" and attacked the "policy of favouritism and discrimination of certain Governments."

SOVIETS "PROVOKED"

"This is not the first time that the United Kingdom delegation has sought to provoke the Soviet delegation into giving a negative vote," he declared.

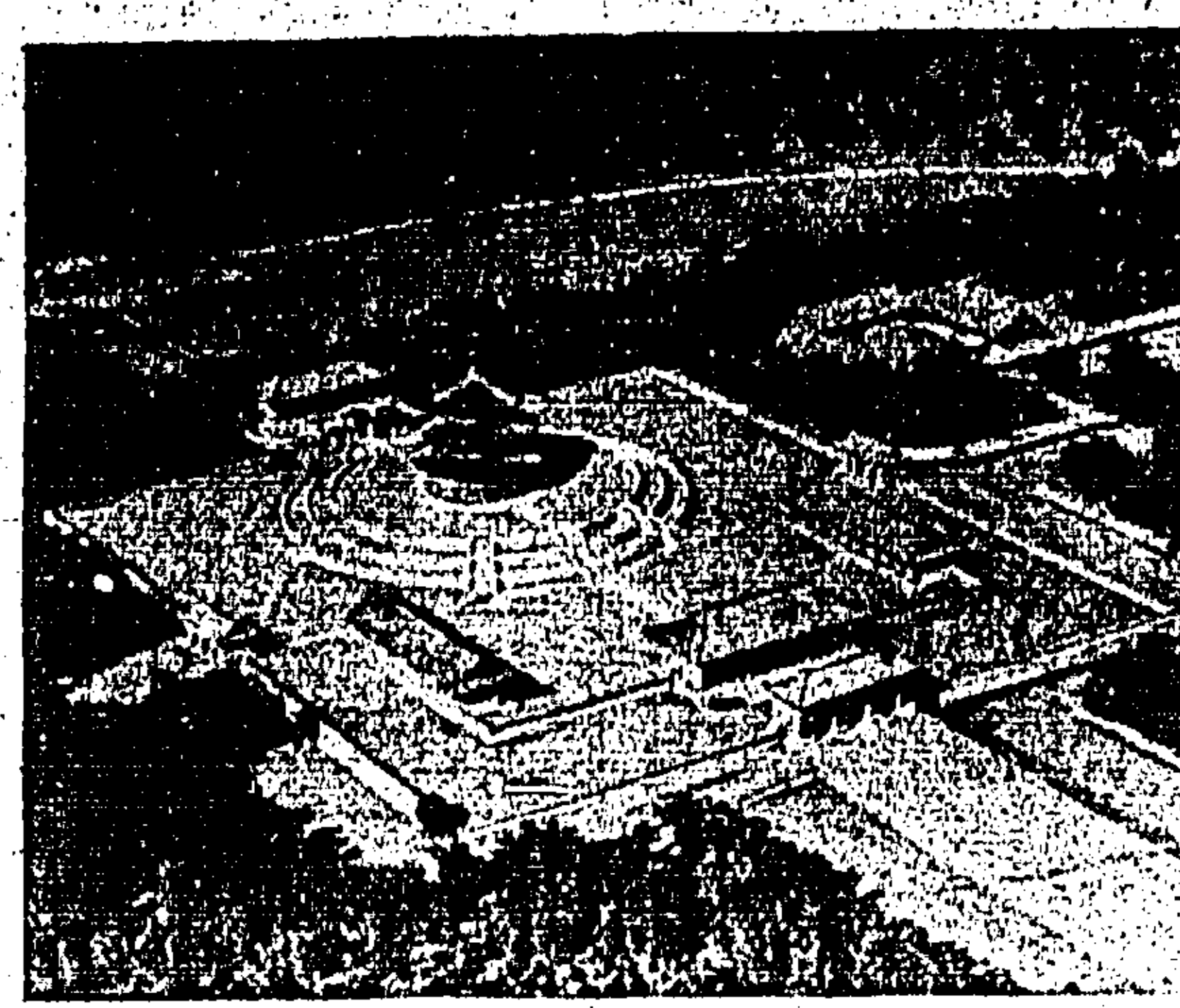
The Council refused to discuss an Egyptian appeal for urgent action against an alleged major Jewish breach of the truce in the Negev district of Southern Palestine.

The Egyptian Government had telegraphed claiming that strong Jewish forces had attacked an Egyptian detachment trapped at Faluja. Only Syria and Belgium voted to put the Egyptian complaint on the agenda. The remaining nine members abstained.

The United States and the Soviet Union spoke against discussing the incident until the Security Council had received a report from the acting Mediator, Dr. Ralph Bunche.

Dr. Bunche, chairman of the Council's Palestine Subcommittee, said Mr. Moshe Shertok, the Israeli Foreign Minister, had told him today that he had no news of a Jewish attack at Faluja.

Mr. Shertok added, according to Dr. Bunche, that as far as he knew negotiations were still going on at Faluja between Jews and Arabs.



Aerial view of Peiping's Temple of Heaven where, according to latest reports, the Nationalists are preparing to build an airfield to replace those already lost to the Communists in the suburbs of the old city.

TOKYO WAR CRIMES COURT APPEAL

MacArthur Would Ignore Any Supreme Court Order

Washington, Dec. 17.—Counsel for the United States Government today told the United States Supreme Court that General MacArthur would ignore any order the Court might issue in the war crimes case.

General MacArthur takes orders from the Far Eastern Commission, the Solicitor General (Philip Perlman) said at the close of the two-day hearing here on the Court's authority to intervene in the conviction of the Japanese war leaders.

The Associate Justice, Frank Murphy, asked: "Do you say General MacArthur could disregard an order of our country?" Mr. Perlman: "In case of conflict, it would be General MacArthur's duty to obey the Far Eastern Commission. As Supreme Commander, he takes orders only from the Far Eastern Commission."

Mr. Perlman referred to the statement of the Far Eastern Commission at its meeting on Wednesday which said: "The International Military Tribunal for the Far East is an international court appointed and acting under international authority."

"RATHER STARTLING"

The FEC said it regarded the action of SCAP in proclaiming the establishment of the International Military Tribunal as in accordance with FEC policies.

Mr. William Douglas (Associate Justice): "Do you mean, an American General who sets for another government as well as this one would be beyond the reach of this court?"

"It does in this case," Mr. Justice Douglas termed the statement "rather startling." He said: "If we do not exercise control over executive branch and military agencies they would be wholly unhampered and unrestrained. This would not aid the programme of law and order in the world. Our agents could do abroad what we at home could not do in law and order."

Mr. Perlman told the Court Japanese war criminals had no rights in our courts in the United States. He urged the Court to dismiss the appeals.

COMMUNISTS AT PEIPING'S CITY WALL

Loss Of Haitien Admitted

Nanking, Dec. 17.—A semi-official source said today that the Communists have entered Peiping's new business district and stormed to the very wall of the historic city.

It said that Communist gunfire also put the city's only remaining airfield in the Southern suburbs out of service, cutting off completely for the first time the city's air communication with the outside world.

Fierce street fighting was raging in the new district which lies outside the city's South-Western Fucheng gate.

Meanwhile, reliable sources down in the Pengpu front North of Nanking said that new Communist troop movements are forcing the Government to re-deploy its forces.

They said that all Government force North of the Hwai River were withdrawn Southwards to meet the impending Communist threat to Pengpu. They said that the removal of General Liu Shih's headquarters at Pengpu to Chubien is expected to be completed in two days.—United Press.

GOVT TROOPS WITHDRAW

Tientsin, Dec. 18.—The loss of Haitien, Peiping's western suburb, was admitted today by pro-Government reports, which said the Nan-yuan area in the southern suburb, where the major airport is located, and Fengtai, a strategic railway station just outside the Peiping City Wall, had been evacuated by Government forces.

The Governor of Hebei, Mr. Chu Hsi-chun, who is one of General Fu Tso-ya's right-hand men in Peiping, said the withdrawal from such important points, besides Tungchow and Changchun, was designed to consolidate Nationalist strength in "fighting below the wall" tactics.

With guns mounted on the man-made "Coal-Hill," the history of which is particularly connected with the tragic death of the last Ming Emperor, Chung Chen, who hanged himself on the hill while a horde of victorious rebels were storming the city gates, in the heart of the Forbidden City and atop the city wall bordering the former Legation quarter, inside Peiping city preparations commenced for street fighting.

The American Consul in Peiping, Mr. Edmund Clubb, called a meeting yesterday of the various foreign consuls in the ancient capital for a discussion of tentative arrangements regarding the protection of their respective nationals in the event of an emergency.

It is reliably believed that no decisions were taken and a further meeting is scheduled today.

AIRFIELD UNDER FIRE

An aeroplane with American Military and Naval Attaches from Nanking and several correspondents arrived at the southern airfield yesterday afternoon but no sooner had the plane landed than the airfield came under mortar fire.

The plane dashed away and the passengers were left in Peiping hoping that the plane would return on Saturday.

Expanding shells came dangerously close to the plane and the passengers. The Communists continued dropping mortars on the southern airfield and work was being rushed on an emergency airfield bordering the Legation quarter.

Rapid progress was made by the constructors, who expect to complete their work in a couple of days when planes may come in, but observers doubt if larger craft will succeed in coming down.—Reuter.

ARTILLERY DUEL

Tientsin, Dec. 17.—Since dawn today, the Nationalist forces inside the walls of Peiping have been firing field guns at the "hanging Red" and the thunderous reverberations shook the ancient capital. Under cover of this heavy barrage, the Nationalists made their way from behind the walls to join in the hostilities in the western suburbs only three miles outside the north-west gate leading to the Summer Palace and Yenching University.

The area where the university is located, has been occupied by the Reds and the liberal elements of the university, whom they have joined the Communists already in sight of their Alma Mater grounds, if not within the premises.—Reuter.

England 144 For 2 In First Test Against S. Africa

Durban, Dec. 17.—England were only 17 runs behind South Africa's first innings total of 161 when played stopped play for the day with their total at 144 for two in the first Test here.

A storm broke over the ground before tea and it was decided that further play today would be impossible.

England lost Cyril Washbrook (35) at 84 and Simpson (5) at 104, but Len Hutton and Denis Compton were together when play ceased. They had then put on 40 for the unfinished third wicket, and Hutton, 81 not out, looked set for his fourth century of the tour and his second in successive innings.

RUSSIAN EMIGRES FOR OKINAWA

Shanghai, Dec. 18.—An undisclosed number of local emigre Russians were preparing to move out to a transit resettlement camp in Okinawa, according to local reports today.

The local office of the International Refugee Organisation refuses to confirm these reports but a number of Russian emigres said they received a "call" to be prepared for shift out to Okinawa.

Meanwhile, the stateless community here has been increased by a further 300 with the arrival of another and possibly the last evacuation ship from Tientsin and Peiping last night.

The arrivals, although extremely happy to be out of North China, expressed anxiety over at least 100 White Russians left in Tientsin awaiting transportation south.

They described Tientsin as being untroubled except for occasional outbreaks of Nationalist soldiers but said it was "dead." They reported it was unsafe for Chinese vessels to tie up alongside the Tientsin waterfront as soldiers forced their way on board and ordered vessels to leave for places of safety.—Reuter.

500 DROWNED IN FLOOD DISASTER

Sao Paulo, Brazil, Dec. 17.—Over 500 people were today reported drowned and several hundred missing in Brazil's worst flood over recorded.

The flood was reported to have been caused by a giant waterspout followed by torrential rains which inundated two small towns, Leopoldina and Peraputinga, in the State of Minas Geraes, east central Brazil.—Reuter.

HOPES FOR MORE BACON

Birmingham, Dec. 17.—Mr. John Strachey, the Minister of Food, said in Birmingham tonight that he hoped to obtain twice as much bacon from Denmark, Poland and Hungary next year as in 1948.

"We are buying everything they can possibly sell us," he said.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Industrialising Asia

THE recent Sydney conference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East seemed to accomplish little more than underlining once again the difficulties facing this part of the world. The problems confronting ECAFE are not new; and their solution seems no nearer. In fact, with a change of Government in China apparently inevitable, the difficulties may well increase. Cooperation between all the countries of Asia and the Far East is regarded as an essential basis for the success of the Commission—and it is by no means certain that a Communist China would be interested in the welfare of her neighbours. The Reds are probably confident that they can put their house in order more effectively by themselves than with outside aid, so that a big partner in ECAFE schemes may be removed. Industrialisation is stated to be the first requirement of Asian development. The most successful Asian country in the field of industrialisation has so far been Japan, whose efforts to weld the whole of Asia into a Greater Prosperity Sphere almost succeeded. It now appears that where the failed by force Japan may succeed through peace, it may become the leader of the Asian peoples. So soon after the war the western countries cannot be expected to view that prospect with great elation. But India maintained at the conference that the rebuilding of Japanese industry would be the quickest way of financing plans for the rest of Asia. There is no doubt that capital is badly needed. Not all delegates went as far as the Indian representative who warned the United States that Asia was becoming impatient, and that some form of Marshall Plan for the East must be instituted without delay. But other countries have not been above the economic blackmail of "Give us aid or we go Communist." There are signs that America, not unreasonably, is at last becoming reluctant to pour dollars into empty purses all over the world. Her delegate to the conference was emphatic that no American funds would be available for ECAFE's industrialisation programme. Billions of dollars are said to be necessary, but there is no indication of how they are to be obtained. It seems that a better source of funds than the World Bank would be foreign capital held by private investors. If countries in Asia and the Far East want that capital they will have to create conditions favourable to its investment. In fact that seems to be the only concrete result of the conference: whatever development Asia makes must come from within. Self help is the best, and in this case, the only help.

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CHRISTMAS FILM FARE

HONGKONG film-goers can look forward to a gay round of films for Christmas, with the accent on music, fun and girls—an excellent recipe for the holiday season.

Opening at the King's on Christmas Day is, perhaps the most appropriate programme, "Miracle on 34th Street," a comedy set in a big New York department store during the Christmas shopping period.

The film stars Maureen O'Hara and John Payne, backed up by a bewhiskered Edmund Gwenn, as a genial old gent who insists that he is Santa Claus.

Miss O'Hara is cool and efficient as the store's personnel manager, and she carries her detachment into her home life in an attempt to bring up her eight-year-old daughter on a satisfactorily scientific basis.

To handsome John Payne is entrusted the pleasant task of bringing her down, and to "Santa" Edmund Gwenn is left the daughter, who is soon persuaded that there is a Father Christmas. But the old gentleman has to submit to psychiatric vetting, and an eventual court case, as a result of his enthusiasm.

The court fantasy is undoubtedly improbable, but none the less entertaining for that. The Christmas shopping, of which there is plenty, makes a seasonal background to a pleasant film.

FRED ASTAIRE, on top of the dancing world for so long, has gone back on his decision to retire, made two years ago after "Blue Skies."

His change of heart will be welcomed by those who see "Easter Parade," which opens at the Queen's on Christmas Eve and the Alhambra on Christmas Day.

This time he is partnered by Judy Garland and Ann Miller, whose shapely legs have lapped their way through many films, but not yet with Astaire. The "throb-stuff" is left to Peter Lawford, the boyish Englishman so popular with Hollywood casting directors.

There is no story to speak of in "Easter Parade," but who cares when Astaire is dancing, and the music is supplied by Irving Berlin?

Another unabashed musical will open at the Queen's on Christmas Eve: "My Wild Irish Rose."

With 16 songs and Technicolor, this can hardly go wrong; despite the publicity which bills it as "McNificent."

Dennis Morgan is the Irish singer whose trials and tribulations give the film what form it has, and Arlene Dahl is the colleen he eventually manages to marry.

Lillian Russell, played by Andrea King, has something to do with things, and two popular comedians with lesser roles are Alan Hale and Ben Blue.

For entertainment with no pretensions you could do worse.

Over in Kowloon the Star, as usual, has a worthy show for the Christmas weekend.

It is "Cluny Brown," with Charles Boyer as the wolf, and Jennifer Jones as an ingenious "domestic." Fokes light-hearted fun at the British aristocracy, and is well worth the time.

At the Majestic is "Lady From Shanghai," with Rita Hayworth and her estranged husband Orson Welles. If you've never been to Shanghai you should enjoy it.



Edmund Gwenn makes a jolly Father Christmas in "Miracle on 34th Street," a seasonal film which opens at the King's on Christmas Day.

Progress Of The British Film

By H. H. WOLLENBERG

IN many countries all over the world British films are making friends in increasing numbers. This interest has not been roused by mass-produced pictures but by the high quality of a comparatively small number of productions which have brought a fresh note to the world's screens.

It is for this reason that the recent annual general meeting of the British Film Producers' Association deserves attention wherever British pictures are appreciated. For numerous questions about the present state of affairs in British studios and their future prospects found authoritative answers.

WELL-KNOWN NAMES

The B.F.P.A. is the representative organisation of the film production industry in Britain. Film studios and producing firms are represented in the Association by their executives, among them such well-known film makers as Sir Alexander Korda, Sir Michael Balcon, Anthony Havelock-Allan, Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger, Anthony Kimmins, Warwick Ward, Sydney Box, Sidney Gilliat and Frank Launder.

The Association's president—elected at the recent meeting—is J. Arthur Rank, and in his presidential address he referred to the headway made by British films on the world market.

"British films," he said, "are now being shown in almost every country, except Russia, and with steadily increasing revenues. But we have only touched the fringe of the potential world market."

PLEASANT READING

This seems to make pleasant enough reading, yet the responsible men of the British Film Producers' Association left no doubt about their opinion that there is no ground for complacency; or as their president put it, "We cannot be satisfied with the overseas revenues our pictures earn, and a greater proportion of our production costs must come to this country from overseas."

This ambitious aim seems justified by recent trends. As a matter of fact, in spite of considerable difficulties, there was in 1947-48 an increase of just over one-third in feature film production compared with the year before.

A similarly encouraging development is reflected by the employment figures. A recent survey revealed that there were between 7,000 and 8,000 people employed in the making of British films. These figures show an increase since 1946 of more than 2,000.

No less important was the fact that "very good progress" has been made with the physical rehabilitation of British studios and their "equipment" mentioned in a recent speech by Mr. Harold Wilson, the President of the Board of Trade.

To put these facilities to the best possible use, improved studio coordination, better scripting, and tighter budgeting are essential, and at the B.F.P.A. meeting it was stressed that such measures "are now making it possible to produce more pictures in less studio space."

INTEREST APPRECIATED

Incidentally, Mr. Wilson's interest in the revival of a sound British film industry is thoroughly appreciated and Mr. Rank has praised his "singularly firm and detailed grasp of our industry" and his "most sympathetic understanding of its peculiar difficulties and problems."

While technical and administrative points were reviewed at the producers' meeting, no one overlooked the no less important aspect of "artistic quality." Friends of British screencraft overseas will be pleased to read the following quotation from the presidential address:

"Our business is a combination of art and imagination and it is at the same time a highly technical and scientific process involving keen international competition. Allowance must be made for the creative and imaginative aspects of film-making."

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CHRISTMAS FEATURES

HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1948.

Odd Facts About "The Night Before Christmas"



THE man who wrote the most celebrated of all Christmas poems wasn't proud of it.

Clement Clarke Moore, Ph.D., did not care to have his name identified with the jingles that were, in spite of his wishes, to make him immortal. His *A Visit to St. Nicholas*, better known as *The Night Before Christmas*, was not published under his name for more than 20 years after he composed it, on the spur of the moment, on Christmas Eve, 1822.

A graduate of a divinity school who was never ordained, Dr. Moore was then professor of Greek and Oriental Literature in the (Episcopal) General Theological Seminary and the author of the first Hebrew-English lexicon. He lived in a colonial mansion upon a slope just west of 9th Ave., between 22nd and 23rd Sts., Manhattan. The name of the estate, Chelsea, is still borne by that whole district of New York.

The professor's wife, Catharine

Taylor Moore, was making up baskets for the poor of Trinity Parish that Christmas Eve when she discovered she didn't have enough turkeys. She coaxed the professor from his library and sent him to the store to get more.

The streets through which he passed had real Christmas eve dress—snow and moonlight. The cheeriness of the crowds in the streets and everything warmed up the usually aloof 43-year-old scholar. As he walked in the street he suddenly had the vision of Christmas as all children see it, and a poem about it formed in his mind. When he reached home, he wrote down the lines and he read them that evening to his seven children.

He had no thought of publishing the jingles, or indeed, of the poem ever going beyond his family hearthside. But it so happened that a young relative, Sarah Harriet Butler, visiting the Moores that Christmas, delightedly put a copy in her diary, and read it to her father, the Rev. David Butler, when she returned to her home in Troy, N. Y.

The minister sent it next year to a newspaper, where it appeared among the miscellany, Dec. 23, 1823. The author's name was not given. Other newspapers printed the jingles. They were placed on Christmas giveaways of merchants. They quickly became known all over the country, to the embarrassment of Dr. Moore, who feared to have it known he was the author. He considered it undignified for a man of his scholastic standing, to be the author of children's jingles. Also, at that time, Christmas merriment of any kind was frowned upon by religious zealots; and the professor had to be mindful of his position in the church.

Twenty-two years later, when he had finally acknowledged authorship publicly, and *A Visit to St. Nicholas* was brought out in book form under his name for the

first time, the jingles had become a classic in the public domain, and he could not reap royalties from all the publications.

Ironically, the professor's serious works are forgotten today. He is mentioned in encyclopedias because he wrote the celebrated Christmas verses.

Numerous direct descendants of Dr. Moore survive today; several are in New York's Social Register. None live in Chelsea now, but Chelsea still has a link with the author: there is an annual Clement Clarke Moore Memorial Service at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, which he founded, endowed and served for years as warden and organist. His residence no longer stands, but the childhood home where he himself hung up Christmas stockings and waited for visits from St. Nicholas, survives in what is now Elmhurst, L. I. His grave, in upper Trinity Cemetery, at 155th St. and Broadway, is decorated each Dec. 24th by persons who remember with affection his now deathless lines:

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her kerchief and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Comet! on, Comet!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had slung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a round little belly,
That shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



—Courtesy N. Y. Public Library
Prof. Moore's Home in the Chelsea Section of New York City.

Prof. Moore as He Visualized His Poem, Returning from Market on Christmas Eve—a Drawing Made Especially for This Magazine by the World Renowned Artist, WILLIAM SHARP.

YOUR RADIO LISTENING FOR NEXT WEEK IN DETAIL — A "TELEGRAPH" FEATURE

Seasonal Programmes
On Christmas EveCarols From King's
College Chapel

Radio Hongkong's programmes on Friday next (Christmas Eve) possess a typical seasonal flavour. First of the Christmas programmes is "A Noel Fantasy" played by the Royal Opera House Orchestra, Covent Garden, at 6.50.

This is followed at 8.10 with carols from the studio sung by Lala Vincent, and at 8.30 with "Christmas Moods." The "Christmas Concerto" played by the London Symphony Orchestra under Walter Bruno can be heard at 9 p.m., and at 10.15, a programme of carols from the King's College Chapel, Cambridge from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols upon Christmas Eve.

An important feature of next week's programmes is a concert by the band of the Buffs from the China Street Club on Monday night at 9 o'clock.

Monday

12.30 Daily Programme Summary.

12.35 Light Musical Selections with Anna Samson and Lila Quint.

1.15 NEWS WEATHER REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1.30 Handstands: Fairy Aviations Works Dand Conducted by Denis Walsh.

1.45 Carols: "The Christmas Carol" with Lila Quint.

2.00 Close Down.

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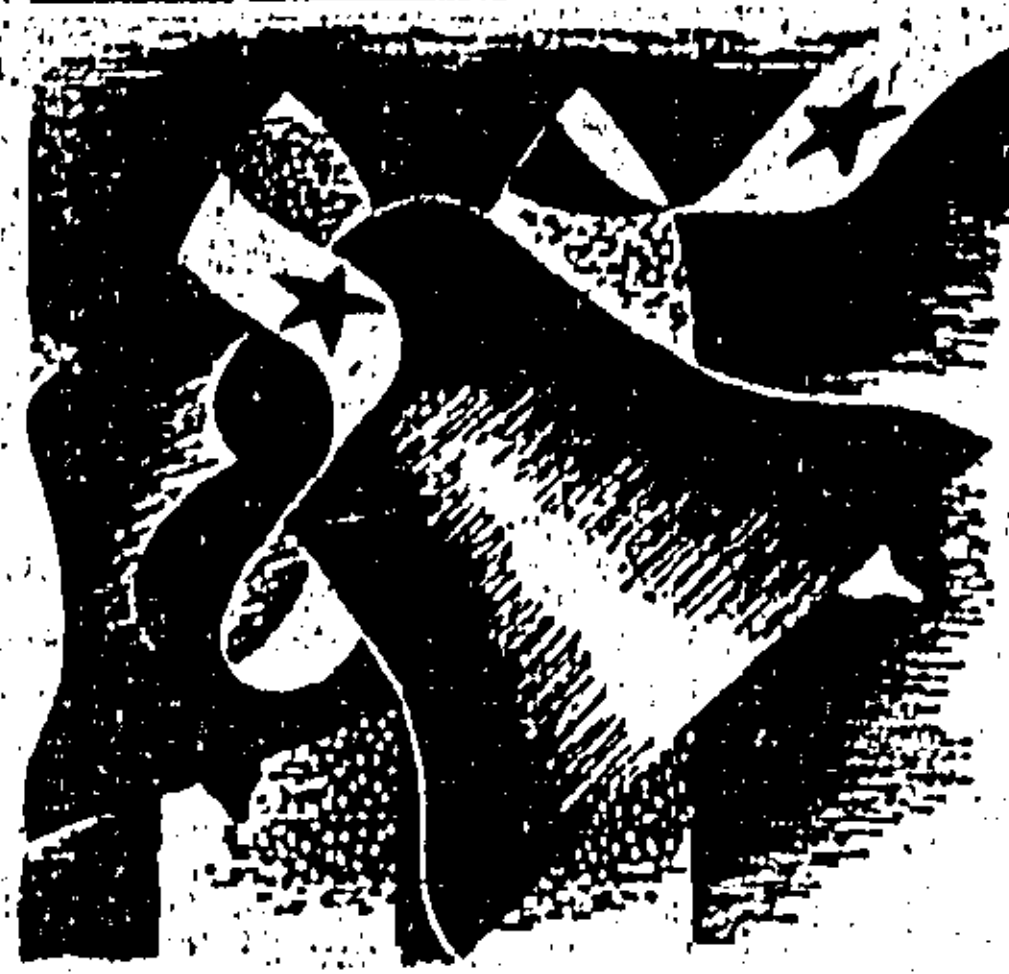
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BERTIE'S CHRISTMAS EVE



IT was Christmas Eve, and the family circle of Luke Steffink, Esq., was aglow with the amiability and random mirth which the occasion demanded. A long and lavish dinner had been partaken of, waltz had been round and sung carols, the house-party had regaled itself with more carolling on its own account, and there had been romping which, even in a pulpit reference, could not have been condemned as ragging.

In the midst of the general glow, however, there was one black unkindled cinder.

Bertie Steffink, nephew of the aforementioned Luke, had early in life adopted the profession of no-er-do-weel; his father had been something of the kind before him. At the age of 18, Bertie had commenced that round of visits to our Colonial Possessions so keenly and desirably in the case of a Prince of the Blood, so suggestive of insincerity in a young man of the middle-class.

He had gone to grow tea in Ceylon and fruit in British Columbia, and to help sheep to grow wool in Australia. At the age of 20 he had just returned from some similar errand in Canada, from which it may be gathered that the trial he gave to these various experiments was of the summary drum-head nature.

Luke Steffink, who fulfilled the troubled role of guardian and deputy-parent to Bertie, deplored the persistent manifestation of the homing instinct on his nephew's part, and his solemn thanks earlier in the day for the blessing of reporting a united family had no reference to Bertie's return.

Arrangements had been promptly made for packing the youth off to a distant corner of Rhodesia, whence return would be a difficult matter; the journey to this uninviting destination was imminent,

in fact a more careful and willing traveller would have already begun to think about his packing.

Hence Bertie was in no mood to share in the festive spirit which displayed itself around him, and resented smouldering within him at the eager, self-absorbed discussion of social plans for the coming months which he heard on all sides. Beyond depressing his uncle and the family circle generally by playing "Say au revoir, uncle and not good-bye," he had taken no part in the evening's conviviality.

ELEVEN o'clock had struck some half-hour ago, and the elder Steffinks began to throw out suggestions leading up to that process which they called retiring for the night.

"Come, Teddie, it's time you were in your little bed, you know," said Luke Steffink to his 13-year-old son.

"That's where we all ought to be," said Mrs. Steffink.

"There wouldn't be room," said Bertie.

The remark was considered to border on the scandalous; everybody ate raisins and almonds with the nervous industry of sheep feeding during threatening weather.

"In Russia," said Horace Bordenby, who was staying in the house as a Christmas guest, "I've read that the peasants believe that if you go into a cow-house or stable at midnight on Christmas Eve you will hear the animals talk. They're supposed to have the gift of speech at that one moment of the year."

"On, do let's all go down to the cow-house, and listen to what they've got to say," exclaimed Bertie, to whom anything was thrilling and amusing if you did it in a troop.

Mrs. Steffink made a laughing protest, but gave a virtual consent by saying "We must all wrap up well, then." The idea seemed a scatterbrained one to her, and almost heathenish, but it afforded an

opportunity for "throwing the young people together," and as such she welcomed it.

Mr. Horace Bordenby was a young man with quite substantial prospects, and he had danced with Bertie at a local subscription ball a sufficient number of times to warrant the authorised inquiry on the part of the neighbours whether "there was anything in it." Though Mrs. Steffink would not have put it in so many words, she shared the idea of the Russian peasants that on this night the beast might speak.

The cow-house stood at the junction of the garden with a small paddock, an isolated survival in a suburban neighbourhood, of what had once been a small farm.

Luke Steffink was complacently proud of his cowhouse and his two cows; he felt that they gave him a stamp of solidity which no number of Weysses or Opies could impart. They even seemed to link him in a sort of inconsequent way with those patriarchs who derived importance from their floating capital of flocks and herds, he-asses and she-asses.

It had been an anxious and momentous occasion when he had to decide definitely between "the Byre" and "the Ranch" for the naming of his villa residence.

A December midnight was hardly the moment he would have chosen for showing his farm-building to visitors, but since it was a fine night, and the young people were anxious for an excuse for a mild frolic, Luke consented to chaperon the expedition. The servants had long since gone to bed, so the house was left in charge of Bertie, who scornfully declined to stir out on the pretext of listening to bovine conversation.

"We must go quietly," said Luke, as he headed the procession of giggling young folk, brought up in the rear by the shawled and hooded figure of Mrs. Steffink; "I've always laid stress on keeping this a quiet and orderly neighbourhood."

It was a few minutes to midnight when the party reached the cow-house and made its way in by the light of Luke's stable lantern. For a moment everyone stood in silence, almost with a feeling of being in church.

In the general glow around the Christmas hearth of Luke Steffink, Esq., there was one black unkindled cinder... and that was his nephew Bertie. But it was the happiest Christmas Eve Bertie had ever spent. To quote his own words, he had a rotten Christmas!

BY

'SAKI'

(H. H. Munro)

"Daisy—the one lying down—is by a shorthorn bull out of a Guernsey cow," announced Luke in a hushed voice, which was in keeping with the foregoing impression.

"Is she?" said Bordenby, rather as if he had expected her to be by Rembrandt.

"Myrtle is—"

Myrtle's family history was cut short by a little scream from the women of the party.

The cow-house door had closed noiselessly behind them and the key had turned gratefully in the lock; then they heard Bertie's voice pleasantly wishing them good night and his footsteps retreating along the garden path.

Luke Steffink strode to the window; it was a small square opening of the old-fashioned sort, with iron bars let into the stonework.

"Unlock the door this instant," he shouted, with as much air of menacing authority as a hen might assume when screaming through the bars of a coop at a marauding hawk. In reply to his summons the

hall-door closed with a defiant bang.

A neighbouring clock struck the hour of midnight. If the cows had received the gift of human speech at that moment they would not have been able to make themselves heard. Seven or eight other voices were engaged in describing Bertie's present conduct, and his general character at a high pressure of excitement and indignation.

In the course of half an hour or so everything that it was permissible to say about Bertie had been said some dozens of times, and other topics began to come to the front—the extreme murkiness of the cow-house, the probability of it catching fire, and the probability of it being a Rowton House for the vagrant rats of the neighbourhood. And still no sign of deliverance came to the unwilling vigil-keepers.

TOWARDS one o'clock the sound of rather boisterous and undisciplined carol-singing approached rapidly and came to a sudden anchorage, apparently just outside the garden gate. A motor-load of youthful "bloodes" in a high state of conviviality, had made a temporary halt for repairs; the stoppage, however, did not extend to the vocal efforts of the party, and the watchers in the cow-shed were treated to a highly unauthorised rendering of "Good King Wenceslas," in which the adjective "good" appeared to be very carefully applied.

The noise had the effect of bringing Bertie out into the garden, but he utterly ignored the pale, angry faces peering out at the cow-house window, and concentrated his attention on the revellers outside the gate.

"Wassail, you chap!" he shouted. "Wassail, old sport!" they shouted back.

"We'd jolly well drink y'r health, only we've nothing to drink it in."

"Come and wassail inside," said Bertie, hospitably. "I'm all alone, and there's heaps of 'wet'."

They were total strangers, but his touch of kindness made them instantly his kin. In another moment the unauthorised version of King Wenceslas, which, like many other scandals, grew worse on repetition,

went echoing up the garden path; two of the revellers gave an impromptu performance on the way by executing the staircase waltz on the terrace of what Luke Steffink, hitherto, with some justification, called his rock-garden. The rock part of it was still there when the waltz had been accorded its third encore.

Luke, more than ever like a cooped hen behind the cow-house bars, was in a position to realise the feelings of concert-goers unable to countermand the call for an encore which they neither desire nor deserve.

The hall door closed with a bang on Bertie's guests, and the sounds of merriment became faint and muffled to the weary watchers at the other end of the garden. Presently two ominous pops, in quick succession, made themselves distinctly heard.

"They've got at the champagne!" exclaimed Mrs. Steffink.

"Perhaps it's the sparkling Moselle," said Luke hopefully.

Three or four more pops were heard.

"The champagne and the sparkling Moselle," said Mrs. Steffink.

Luke uncorked an expetive which, like brandy in a temperance household, was only used on rare emergencies. Mr. Horace Bordenby had been making use of similar expressions under his breath for a considerable time past. The experiment of "throwing the young people together" had been prolonged beyond a point when it was likely to produce any romantic result.

SOME forty minutes later the hall door opened and disgorged a crowd that had thrown off any restraint or shyness that might have influenced its earlier actions. Its vocal efforts in the direction of carol-singing were now supplemented by instrumental music; a Christmas tree that had been prepared for the children of the gardener and other

household retainers had yielded a rich spoil of tin trumpets, rattles and drums.

The life-story of King Wenceslas had been dropped, Luke was thankful to notice, but it was intensely irritating for the chilled prisoners in the cow-house to be told that it was "a hot time in the old town tonight," together with some accurate, but entirely superfluous information as to the imminence of Christmas morning. Judging by the protests which began to be shouted from upper windows of neighbouring houses, the sentiments prevailing in the cowhouse were heartily echoed in other quarters.

The revellers found their car, and what was more remarkable, managed to drive off in it, with a parting fanfare of tin trumpets. The lively beat of a drum disclosed the fact that the master of the revels remained on the scene.

"Bertie!" came in an angry, imploring chorus of shouts and screams from the cow-house window.

"Hullo!" cried the owner of the name, turning his rather errant steps in the direction of the summons; "are you people still there? Must have heard everything cows got to say by this time. If you haven't, no use waiting. After it's a Russian legend, and Russian Christmas Eve not due for 'another fortnight. Better come out."

After one or two ineffectual attempts he managed to pitch the key of the cow-house door through the window. Then, lifting his voice in the strains of "I'm afraid to go home in the dark" with a lusty drum accompaniment, he led the way back to the house. The hurried procession of the released that followed in his steps came in for a good deal of the adverse comment that his exuberant display had evoked.

It was the happiest Christmas Eve he had ever spent. To quote his own words, he had a rotten Christmas.

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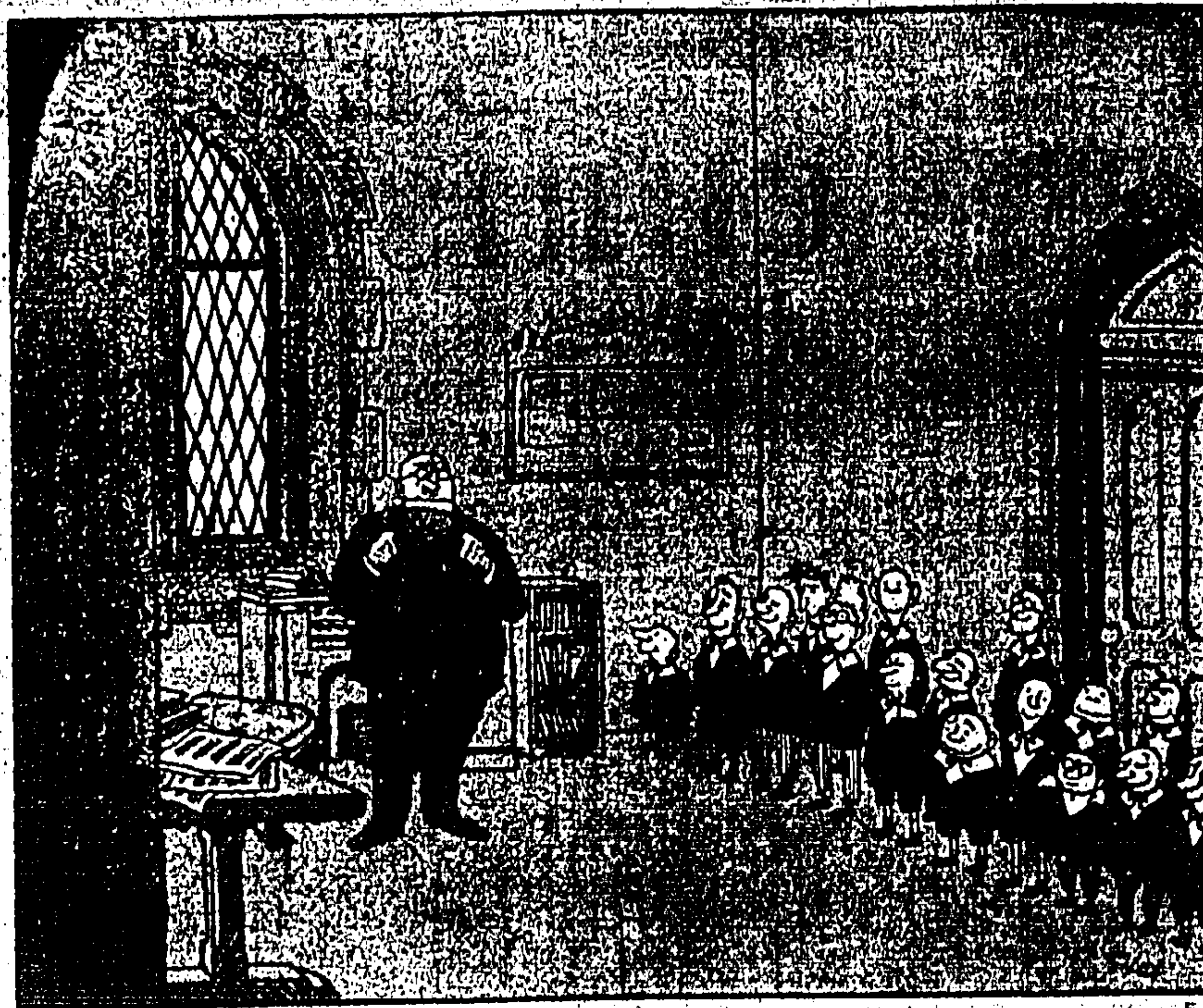
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"This year gentlemen, all catapults, air guns, squeakers, buzzers and so forth will be deposited with me and returned to you AFTER the carol singing."

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS

BY THE VERY REV. W. R. INGE, D.D.,
Formerly Dean of St Paul's, London

THE two most popular festivals of the Christian year are Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas. The former is not recognised by the Church at all, because our harvest comes in the slack season of the Jewish agricultural year, and though we keep the Jewish agricultural feasts, we have quite forgotten why we keep them, since they come in our slack season.

There is no reason to suppose that Christ was born in midwinter, but there was a popular festival of a rival, the Unconquerable Mithras, which his worshippers were unwilling to give up. When the Church conquered the Empire in the fourth century, the pagans would not die for their faith, because they had no intention of giving it up.

To this day southern Europe, so far as it is religious, is more than half pagan, much more so than their service-books. There are many numbers of Madonnas, with different attributes; and the Greek peasant still puts a small coin in the mouth of his dead, to pay Charon, who ferries souls across the Styx—not "trials" across the sticks," as a schoolboy wrote it.

At Paphos, once the capital of Cyprus, there is a church dedicated to Pania Aphroditis, the Blessed Virgin Aphrodite. Aphrodite or Venus, the "Queen of Cyprus," was a very charming goddess, but her best friends never claimed that she was a virgin. The portrait of the composite saint in the church looks middle-aged and quite respectable.

Jolly Festival

CHRISTMAS has always been a jolly festival. Neither Roman Catholics nor all Protestants make much of it. Presents in the Latin countries are usually New Year gifts. The Roundheads of the seventeenth century were so much shocked at the way it was observed that Parliament ordained that December 25 should be a fast day. About the same time the citizens of Norwich petitioned Parliament for leave to pull down the "great and useless" cathedral. Fortunately, this was a little too strong even for Presbyterians.

The Christmas tree is said to have been introduced by that unappreciated blessing, the excellent Prince Consort, whom Queen Victoria wished to canonise as Albert the Good. But before the Reformation there were some queer Christmas customs, such as bringing

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



"I'm not suggesting anything, sir—I merely pointed out that this is the third time running I've been left with the motto!"

Superstitious Should Have A Busy Time

By Philip Page

THE superstitions should have a busy time at Christmas. Rites, customs, and legends of Christmas time come from many lands across the centuries. Some of them are of pagan origin, and the Puritans of the 17th century, who were wont to sneer at Christmas, much as the sour or the superior do today, and to call it not Yuletide but "Fool-tide," had some reason in hating the festival altogether.

The mistake the Puritans made was in not recognising that a heathen custom can become Christianised and embodied into the religion of the day, as a form of symbolism, often very beautiful. A Christian Saturday need not necessarily be a contradiction in terms.

But the majority of the season's superstitions, long obsolete or surviving only in the remotest districts, are frankly non-religious. They are childish and harmless, and those who take pleasure in plunging into the spirit of the past may do so without making themselves any more ridiculous than they would do by a visit to a palmist.

TEN TO MIDNIGHT

WITH modern civilisation, the necessity for some of them has vanished. It is to be hoped, for instance, that no one will feel impelled to wear, between the hours of ten and midnight on Christmas Eve, "something next the skin double-sewn with thread" to ward off the vermin during the coming year. Nor would it be advisable to trust in the legend that the number of happy months in 1949 depends on the number of mince-pies consumed on Christmas Day, for twelve such plunges would jeopardise the chances of all save those of the strongest digestions seeing even a happy January.

Other superstitions that weighed heavily on the Middle Ages, and in some cases continued to the dawn of the nineteenth century, are less embarrassing.

Here are some of them: If the fire burns brightly on Christmas Day, the new year will be prosperous. If it burns badly, ill-fortune will ensue.

Never give a neighbour a live coal for a Christmas present. An economical but unlikely form of gift.

Fruit trees beaten on Christmas Day will bear well. If the garden with a fall and wearing only a shirt early on Christmas morning, and you will have a heavy gross crop. Also, probably, a heavy doctor's bill.

If you eat no beans on Christmas night, you will behave like an ass. The behaviour of many people is not likely, however, to be altered by the consumption of beans.

LOVE CHARMS

ANYONE born during the Christmas season will see spirits. Crumbs from the Christmas dinner table can be used as love charms.

Water turns to wine at midnight on Christmas Eve. But it is not wise to rely on this for the season's orgies if one's cellar is empty. If you steal something on Christmas Day without being caught, you can steal safely for a year.

The Yule log is a protection against hobgoblins, who hate it. I have not ascertained the views of hobgoblins on the gas-stove and central heating. But the hundreds of thousands who will essay roast turkey and plum pudding on Christmas Day will care for this wisdom as little as did those who exhorted Balzac's Ass, who also, with sublime disregard of anachronism appears in Christmas legends. In ancient French legends, the priests chanted to the beasts: "Amen, Amen, thou honoured Ass, Sated to the full with grass, Amen, Amen, shalt thou reply, And disregard antiquity." Perhaps they were right.

a donkey into church on December 25, and the sermon by the Bishop of London, and "your worthy Dean," the boy proceeded: "It seems to me quite a short time since I was one of you boys." Religion in those days was not soured.

We all enjoy Dickens's "Christmas Carol," but we feel that it is a hundred years old. Good temper and generous charity are very well, but, oddly enough, the "servants' ball" and the "tenants' dinner" do not flourish in a time of greater social equality, and we no longer show our gratitude to our Maker by eating and drinking much more than is good for us. We could not be early Victorians now, even if we wished it.

Religious Meaning

AS for the religious meaning of the festival, we all remember, with very bitter feelings, the words of the angels' song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men." The birth of Christ did, in point of fact, occur at a time of peace. As Milton sang: "No war or battle sound was heard the world around." There had been a long period of devastating civil wars, ending in exhaustion, of which the astute Emperor Augustus took advantage.

It looked like the beginning of a millennium. "But wisest Fate says No. This must not, yet be so. The babe yet lies in smiling infancy. That on the bitter cross must redeem our loss."

Nearly two thousand years have passed, and wisest Fate still says No. The unspeakable crime, folly and anachronism of war still goes on. Many think that this time civil-

sation has really committed suicide, and that another Dark Age is upon us.

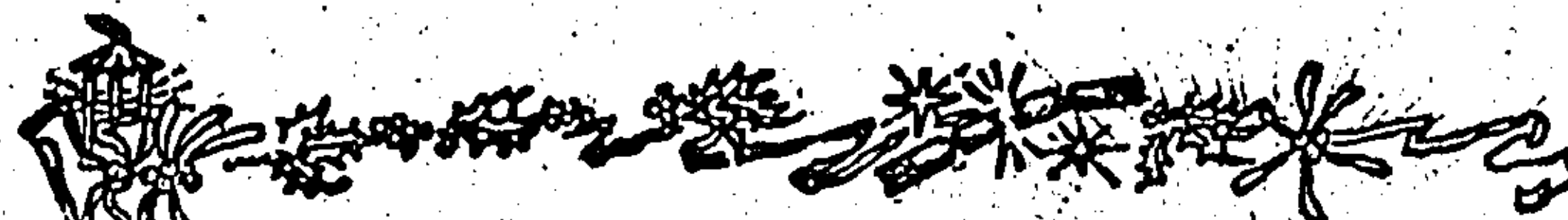
The last Dark Age lasted about 600 years from the sixth to the twelfth century. "This world has its nights," said St. Bernard, "and they have not been few."

Sharing A Culture

A European war is a civil war; for the nations of Europe are all sharers in the same culture, the traditions, and the same religion. "Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?" Why indeed?

I am old enough to remember the Boer War, and the drivelling Ingolism which seemed to carry all before it at that time. Arthur Bryant, in his excellent history of the first ten years of our war with Napoleon, shows how we thought about France, exactly the same as we recently thought about Germany, and with almost equal justice. But the French are now very pacific.

I believe myself that our only hope is to accept Christ as "the Way, the Truth and the Life." If I am not mistaken—and I am not the only one who thinks as I do—thoughtful and intellectual men and women are beginning to return to religion, not perhaps to the old orthodoxy, but to the essentials of Christianity, as a way of living. As a French historian, Ozanam, says: "There are two doctrines of progress: one, nursed in the schools of secularism, promises an earthly paradise at the end of a flowery path, and this given us a premature hell at the end of a wave of blood; The other, inspired by Christianity, points to the victory of spirit over flesh, and by carrying the conflict into the hearts of men, shows us the only way of peace to the nations."



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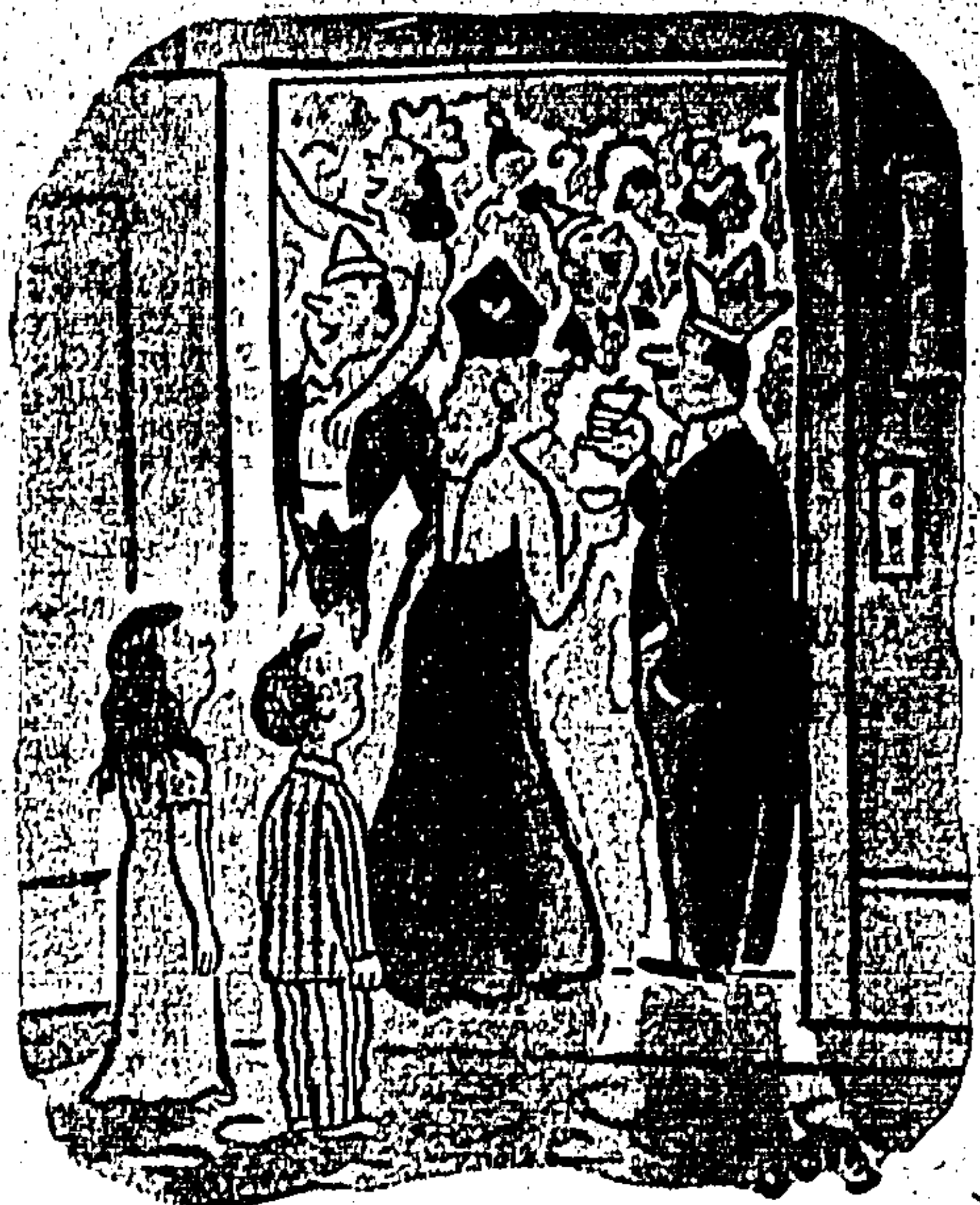
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CAROLS THROUGH THE CENTURIES



"I always feel if we didn't do something special on Christmas Eve, the children would be so terribly disappointed!"

THE first Christmas carol was sung, probably in a low, intimate tone, by a humble working-class mother, wife of a carpenter, in a stable in Bethlehem, 1948 years ago.

Her voice was probably weak and tired, and it is unlikely that her singing showed any particular musicianship.

But it had, we may be sure, that ineffable sweetness born of complete sincerity.

For she was hushing to rest a child who had come to her by no mortal means; a child who had grown gradually in her virgin womb since that strange and terrifying visitant, months earlier, had hailed her "blessed among women".

And she knew, she knew that this child was to become the greatest man in the history of the world; that he was to found a religion that would guide millions of men and women through the centuries; that he was to conquer empires and generations, not by the force of hate but by the far more subtle, powerful and abiding force of love. How this was to be done she had no idea. She did not understand; she knew. And so she paid her simple homage to the coming of the Prince of Peace.

She set us an example which we have followed ever since. Every Christmas, whatever the quarrels and apprehensions of the year, we meet and sing these rough, simple verses in the faith that the teaching of that monumental genius will continue to guide the world, and that in our time at least there will indeed be peace on earth, goodwill toward men. In a word, we sing carols; and we try to believe them.

It was not until 1200 years after the birth of Jesus that the first carol was sung, in the little Italian village of Grotto, near Assisi. Here St. Francis made the first Christmas creche and he and his community sang hymns in honour of the world's Saviour.

"Francis and his brethren," wrote Mrs. Oliphant, "arranged these things into a visible representation of the occurrences of the night at Bethlehem. The friars sang new canticles, which were listened to with all the eagerness of a people accustomed to wandering jongleurs and minstrels, and to whom such songs were all food to be had for the intellect and imagination."

Wynkyn de Worde in 1521 issued the first known collection of carols in English. Another book of seven carols was printed in London "in the Poultry" by Richard Kele between 1516 and 1552.

Early English carols—which included "The Boar's Head" and "For Our Blessed Lady's Sake Bring Us In Good Ale"—began to be popular when Latin ceased to be universally understood. They reflected faithfully the spirit of the people.

Like the love songs, war songs and pastoral songs of the period they had a frankness, bluntness and ingenuously of utterance, that only a later hypocrisy can find distasteful. They spoke of the Holy Family in direct and homely terms; terms all the more moving and reverent because of their naked simplicity.

Our ears are startled perhaps today by such naive expressions as occur in Jeremy Taylor's "Hymn for Christmas Day."

"Where is this blessed Babe That hath made All the world so full of joy And expectation;

That glorious Boy That crowns each nation With a triumphant wreath of blessedness?"

Or by the "Cherry-Tree Carol": "Joseph was an old man, And an old man was he;

When he wedded Sweet Mary In the land of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary walked Through an orchard good, Where were berries and cherries As red as any blood."

Mary asks Joseph to pluck her a cherry, Joseph replies:

"Let him pluck thee a cherry that brought thee with child."

And the babe Mary is carrying says: "Bow down, then, the tallest tree for my mother to have some."

These lines, also from "The Boar's Head," make a rather startling comparison:

"The Boar he is a sovereign beast And acceptable at every feast. So might this Lord be to greatest and least."

Many of the old verses are full of a quaint crude pathos:

"My mother dear, amend your cheer, And now be still.

Thus for to lie it soothly is My Father's will.

Derision, great passion, Infinitely, As it is found, many a wound Suffer shall I;

On Calvary that is so high. There shall I be

Man to restore, nailed full sore Upon a tree."

The rigour of the first Christmas night is sharply expressed in Southwell's verse:

"Behold a silly, tender babe, In freezing winter night;

In homely manger trembling lies, Alas! a piteous sight."

Some of them even had a certain humour:

"Dives sent out his merry men To whip poor Lazarus away,

They had no power to strike a stroke But flung their whips away."

The fate of Dives is quaintly grim:

"Rise up, rise up, brother Dives, And come along with me, For you've a place provided in hell To sit upon a serpent's knee!"

Those who have heard Paul Robeson sing his innocent and childlike Negro Spirituals will appreciate the innocence of the early English carols, for there is much affinity between them.

A Christmas carol has been defined as "a religious seasonal song of joyful character, in the vernacular, and sung by the common people." In the Middle Ages carols were an essential part of the daily life.

Thus we are told that Richard Hill, a London grocer, recorded in his common-place book between 1500 and 1530 mathematical tables, dates of fairs, musical prescriptions, dates of his children's births, cookery recipes, notes on the breaking of horses

and the brewing of beer and—the words and music of numerous Christmas carols.

This book was found lodged behind a bookcase in a private house in 1850.

The word "carol" originally implied dancing—"I saw her dance so comely, carol and sing so sweetly," wrote Chaucer—and the early carols were danced and sung, chiefly in the open air.

Many carols survived from mystery and miracle plays of the fifteenth century. Some were kept alive on broadsheets and broadsides, some passed on orally from generation to generation. The most poignant and appealing carols of all are the "lullabies" or cradle songs.

Two of the most beautiful are the seventeenth century German "Schlaf, mein Kindlein," and the sixteenth century English "Lulla lu lulla, my sweet, little, what meanest thou to cry?"

The most robust and boldest are the Boar's Head group and the innumerable wassails. Our ancestors found nothing irreverent in praising God through the pleasures of eating and drinking and the rough sports of the people. "Poor Robin's Almanack" for 1693 gives the following Christmas verse:

"Christians, Awake!" for example, was the work of two Lancashire men, John Brome, an eighteenth century poet, and John Wainwright, one time organist of the Manchester Collegiate Church, now the Cathedral. "While Shepherds Watched" was written by the eighteenth century versifier, Nahum Tate, but the tune dates from 1592.

The kind of rustic carollers immortalised by Thomas Hardy in "Under the Greenwood Tree" are very rare in these days of gramophones and broadcasting.

Still, the tunes and the words are there in all their fragrant simplicity to refresh our hearts. They form an unbreakable link with that tempestuous winter night when the Three Kings brought the wealth of the world to the Child whose only wealth was his mother's love; when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

COMING OF SANTA CLAUS

WHY do children hang their stockings up on Christmas Eve hoping for a present from Santa Claus; and why do we decorate our homes with holly and mistletoe and Christmas trees?

Santa Claus is the Dutch name for St. Nicholas, a Greek Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, who lived about 300 A.D. He has been adopted as the patron saint of children and, curiously, he is also the patron saint of thieves.

Nicholas was a generous man; he was also shy. He liked to give his money away, but he didn't like being thanked.

There is a legend that, wishing to bring happiness to the three daughters of a poor man who had no money for marriage dowries, he threw, late one night, a purse of gold through the open window of the man's house.

The gold fell into one of the daughter's shoes as it lay by the fireplace. From that time, whenever gifts come from unknown sources, they were attributed to the kindly St. Nicholas.

So Dutch children place their wooden clogs by the fire and Eng-

lish children hang up their stockings on Christmas Eve to receive the gifts from Santa Claus.

In North America the children hang stockings at the foot of their beds to be filled by a little person called Kris Kringle who climbs down the chimney on Christmas Eve with toys and sweets for the good children and a birch for the naughty ones who do not say their prayers.

The custom of decorating with evergreens at Christmas goes far back into history. The Greeks hung garlands of laurel and ivy about their temples at the mid-winter festivals to encourage the coming of spring.

The ancient Britons regarded holly as the fairy tree, and the Druids believed mistletoe to be sacred. During the days of frost in December they held a great festival to celebrate the Sun God.

They decorated their shrines with holly and mistletoe—the symbols of light and growth.

The Druids believed that mistletoe must be hung, for if it touched

the ground it lost its magic. Any female who passed underneath the sacred spray incurred the penalty of being kissed by any man who chose to do the kissing.

She received as many kisses as there were berries on the spray, and if a girl was not kissed she would not be married until the mistletoe was hung again.

In America great wreaths of holly are hung at the windows. An old legend says that if a house is decorated with prickly holly the husband will rule throughout the year, but if the holly is smooth the wife will be the master.

The Christmas tree originated in Germany, and has since flourished from the eighth century. The Teutons believed in a mystic tree that determined the destinies of men and whose branches bore gifts.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert introduced the Christmas tree to England in 1844. Until then it was almost unknown.

Prince Albert had a tree sent from Germany to Windsor Castle as a surprise for the young Prince Edward. After that, Christmas trees became essential to an English Christmas.

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AND
GOOD
IS ON
THE
RIGHT

By **BERNARD WICKSTEED**

If you live in a house with children in it you'll be aware that the pantomime season is almost upon us again. There's nothing I can do about getting you tickets, but I can give you a little background that may be useful for answering your offspring's questions.

In the first place, then, why is it called pantomime? You can appear very learned when you answer this one. You can say: "Well, my boy, the name comes from two old Greek words—*mimos*, which means mimic or act, and *panto*, everything."

You then hope he doesn't ask what Greece has got to do with the pantomime.

If he does you'll have to say that pantomime, like Christmas, is a mid-winter festival and as such it has roots which are older than Ancient Greece, older, even, than history.

Some enterprising caveman probably began it to amuse the other people in his cave on winter evenings. The Greeks followed with a mid-winter festival and so did the Romans, who called it the Feast of Saturnalia.

If you get this far without any awkward questions you'll be all right, because now you're on firmer ground, as pantomime today is very closely linked to the Roman feast of 2,000 years ago.

For two weeks everything went topsy-turvy. Men dressed up as women, women as men, and masters waited on servants.

Boy Is A Girl

TODAY the principal boy is a girl and the dame is a man. And the nobles, with the exception of Prince Charming, are always broke. Even a king can't go into a pantomime kitchen without having a frying pan thrown at his head.

At one time, when pantomime was beginning to take form in Britain, there was a fierce rivalry between the Lincoln's Inn Theatre and Drury Lane, and though this was more than 200 years ago there are people who still take sides.

One lot says that the first pantomime was put on at Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1717. The other, led by a theatrical man called Mr MacQueen Pope, says it was at Drury Lane in 1702.

I don't think it matters much any way, and as Mr MacQueen Pope is a very knowledgeable man on pantomime, having helped in about 200 himself, I felt I could go and ask him a few questions without being accused of taking sides.

I asked him why pantomimes were always written around fairy stories and he said: "That began about 70 or 80 years ago. It was supposed to be turning into a children's entertainment and children like fairy stories."

"Now it's got to the stage where the story has to have a happy ending or children won't take their parents to see it."

Fairies On Wires

ALL good pantomimes should have as many fairies as possible. The Demon King always enters from the left and stays on that side of the stage. The Fairy Queen sticks to the right. This keeps up the tradition of the old miracle plays when left was the side of evil and right of virtue.

Pantomime fairies fly on wires, as you know, and there's a man called Mr Arthur Kirby who makes a living out of this branch of the flying business.

He rigs up the wires, thinks out aerobatics, and sends the fairies on their first solo. He says he's never had one of them crash yet.

The hardest part is landing. You have to land down on one wheel, to kick the other one back, and as you do when getting off a bus.

Every type of flight has its own name. If two fairies fly in from

opposite sides of the stage and meet in the middle, they don't call it a head-on attack, as we would in the RAF. They call it "The Greets."

Mr Kirby has recently found out how to make a fairy loop the loop. He calls it a flying somersault. The pantomime season starts on Boxing Day and lasts about six weeks in London. In the provinces it may continue till Easter. The record is held by "Humpty Dumpty," which ran for 22 weeks at Leeds in 1945 and finished up in a great wave with the audience sitting in their shirt sleeves.

Yet the pantomime has never done well in other countries. They don't appreciate it on the Continent, and try-outs in America have been a flop. The Americans just don't understand what it's all about.

Up to about 1914 pantomimes were still going strong at 11.30 after starting at 7 p.m. But now they're shorter and more streamlined.

Rising Costs

THE rising cost of production is one of the reasons. A medium-sized provincial pantomime that would have cost £6,000 or £7,000 before the last war now runs out at about £20,000.

I have this from Mr Bertram Montague, who has a pantomime factory at St John's Wood, London.

He turns out everything there from the blue print to the finished pant. He has a music department, a drawing office to plan the lay-out of the scenery, a workshop to make it, and painters to paint it.

He has rehearsal rooms, a private laundry, and 2,000 pairs of women's shoes.

The permanent staff of the factory is 30, and this year it is putting on five of Britain's 300 pantos. The wage bill during the season will be £8,500 a week.

Mr Montague reckons a pantomime will last ten years, though some of the gags and the cast need renewing each season. Each year he produces one brand new panto.

Playroom In Clouds

IN "The Babes In The Woods," he has one scene that works out at £2,500 for construction and painting alone. It's a dungeon that turns into a playroom in the clouds, with everybody in the cast dressed up as a toy.

He believes this is even better than his "Mother Goose's" kitchen, which in eight seconds turns into the Palace of Golden Eggs with 24 dancing girls on the floor. The same thing done on a revolving stage would take 45 seconds.

These transformation scenes are worked out like military operations. To make the change in "Babes In The Woods" requires 22 people on the stage disguised as toy soldiers and 17 more out of sight in the wings.

Oddly enough, Mr Montague doesn't laugh at his own jokes. He cries. I'm not making this up. He told me so himself.

The louder the children laugh, he said, the harder he has to swallow. And when the big scene comes along, the one he's been planning for a year he can't swallow any more. He sobs openly.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CARDS

By **F. V. CONOLLY**

QUEEN Victoria and Prince Albert erected the first Christmas tree in England at Windsor Castle in 1844 as a surprise for the Prince of Wales, who afterwards became Edward VII. and the Princess Royal.

The invitation cards for the Royal children's party bore Yuletide greetings and wishes, and in this manner the Christmas card came into being. Within a year or so people began to send Christmas greetings by letter.

Christmas quickly developed into the great national festival, thanks mainly to Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort, and especially Charles Dickens.

In 1840 the first pictorial Christmas card was etched by V.H. Egley. It contained three designs entwined in a framework of holly with the inscription: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." The centre picture was a children's party where the youngsters were being lavishly regaled with cakes, nuts and sweetmeats.

Grown-up Victorian ladies and gentlemen made up the second picture. The third depicted the Lady of the Manor distributing presents of food and clothing to poor people and children. About 8,000 of Egley's cards were sold.

WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS

Two years later well-known artists, including W.A. Dobson, Sir Henry Cole and L.G. Horsley, designed Christmas cards. The demand exceeded all expectations.

The Postmaster-General recognised the Christmas card in the House of Commons in 1880 and spoke of the enormous number posted, which was rapidly approaching the total of the Valentine. In the year before the last war it was estimated that 400,000,000 were sold in Great Britain, of which 80,000,000 were posted to the Dominions and the Colonies.

The Royal Family are still the leading patrons of the Christmas card trade, and for many years past the foremost Academy pictures have been beautifully reproduced in colours for their Majesties' Christmas cards.

From people in the trade, it is learned that the demand this year is likely to break all records. During the war, restrictions on materials greatly reduced the number of cards printed, but the demand has steadily grown since the end of the war.

SANTA'S SUGGESTIONS OF HOLIDAY GIFTS



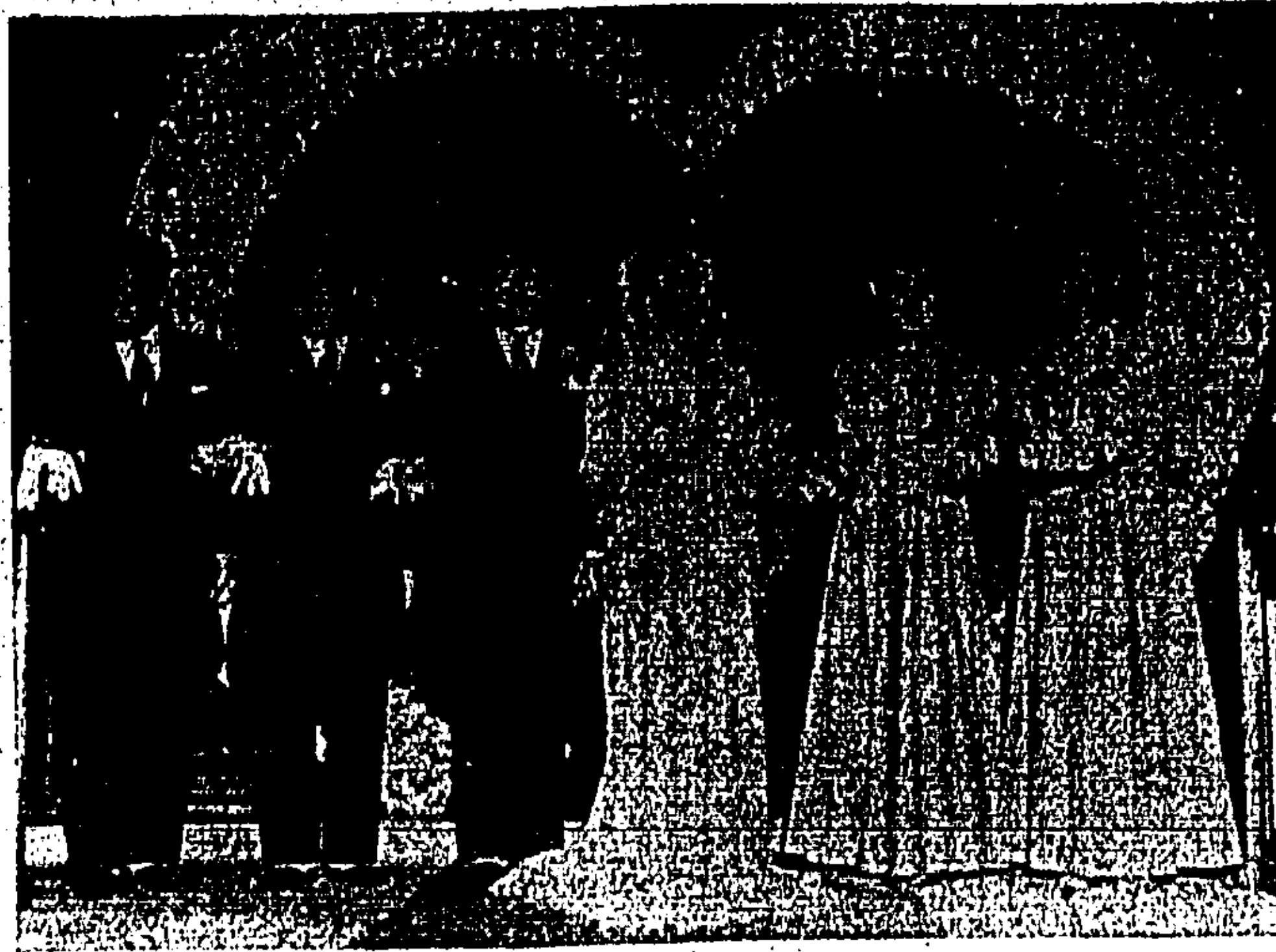
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up to 7 p.m.



ST John's Cathedral choristers are busy practising carols for the Christmas season. Here the boys of the choir go through a number with Mr Donald Fraser. The full choir will sing in the grounds of Government House on Wednesday next. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)



MR and Mrs Alexander Chong-chou Chen photographed with their attendants at St Paul's Church after their wedding last Saturday. The bride, who was Miss Esther Miu-yee Chau, daughter of Dr and Mrs Chau Wai-chung, is a gifted singer, and, at left, obliges with a song at the reception held in the Hongkong Hotel. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)



DR Fung Kam-tat and Miss Ponnio Woo were married last Saturday at All Saints Church. This picture was made on the occasion. The bride is a daughter of the late Dr and Mrs T. P. Woo. (Ming Yuen)



MR Paul G. Hoffman, head of the Economic Co-operation Administration, U.S. governmental agency controlling foreign aid funds, changed planes in Hongkong last Saturday on his way to Shanghai. He is shown above at Kai Tak with Mr Quentin Roosevelt (left), vice-president of CNAC, and Mr J. G. O'Donnell (right), district traffic manager of PAA. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)



THREE scenes from the latest French ADC production, "Le Bal des Voleurs," which played to a large and appreciative audience at the China Fleet Club Theatre last week. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)



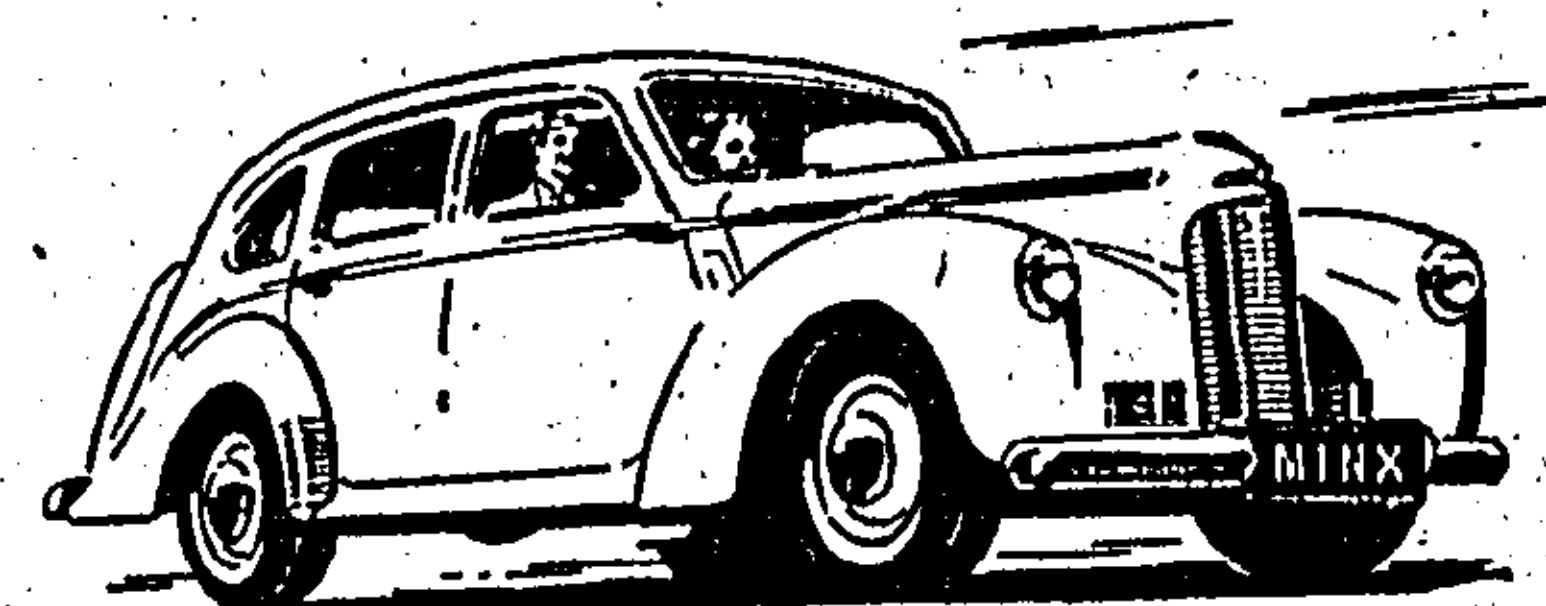
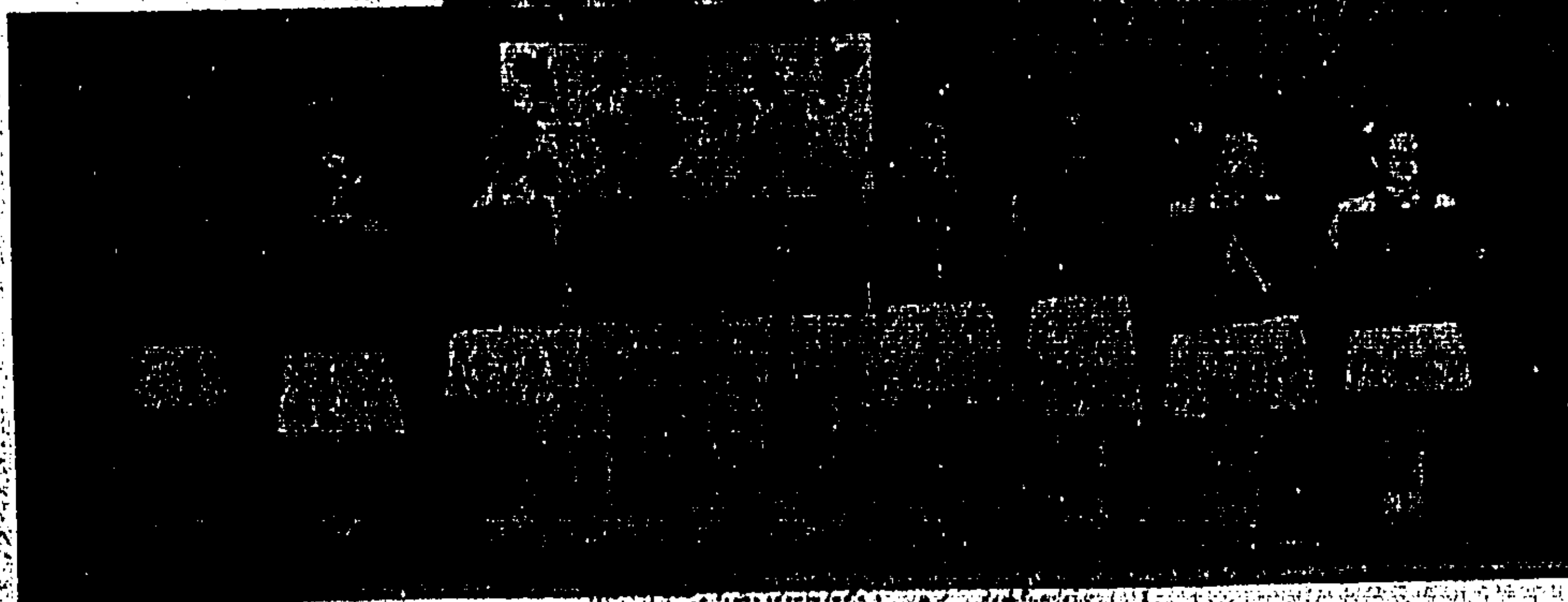
LEFT: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien photographed with Bishop Henry Valtorta of Hongkong at a reception given in honour of the visiting dignitary at the Hongkong Hotel last week. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)

LEFT: Mr F. D. Gardner, manager of the Bosco Corporation, and Miss Frances Cheung, who were married in Manila recently.



MRS T. R. Rowell, wife of the Director of Education, seen at left presenting prizes at the annual prize day of the Kowloon Junior School. Below: a seasonal note struck during the entertainment given by the children. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)

MR Yancie Oldham and Miss Carol Peck, at left, were married at St John's Cathedral last Saturday. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)



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SIXTEEN YEARS ago, Rolex announced a miracle of 20th-century research: the creation of the first permanently waterproof and self-winding watch in the world. Today, the Oyster-Perpetual graces the wrists of men and women—in every continent, and has borne the test of every climate.

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HOW TO CARVE

YOUR Christmas turkey will slide about during carving—so have a large dish and a spare one at the side for legs and wings when you cut them off.

Put the turkey on the table with one side towards you and legs pointing to the right. Carve one side at a time; this keeps the meat fresher.

Press the carving fork firmly into centre of the breastbone at its highest point.

Cut the leg off where its second joint is attached to the back; then separate the drumstick from upper part of leg.

Cut off the wing at body joint—same way as the leg. Taking off leg and wing first makes it easier to carve the breast.

Carve the breast in thin slices, working up from wing towards breastbone. Don't hack. It makes the turkey difficult to carve afterwards, and the meat will be stringy.

Put Safety First

REMEMBER when decorating the tree that candles or open flames of any kind should be avoided. Safety first! You can get low voltage electric lamps in innumerable shapes and colours suitable for every kind of decoration scheme. These may be used either from the household electric supply or, much safer, worked from a battery of dry cells.

On no account should the high voltage of the ordinary light supply be used if there are children in the house, for numerous temporary wires would have to be put up, and a child touching these wires might suffer from shock.

The same lamps as are used with the ordinary light supply may be used with a battery of low voltage cells without any loss of light.

The lamps must be wired in series so that each lamp secures the full supply of voltage from the battery. These little lamps need such a small voltage that the power of the current would not give a shock to a child.

If you want to make such an arrangement of lamps effective and keep the current maintained for several hours, see that the dry cells employed have sufficient capacity to withstand the demand made upon them.

CHRISTMAS WOMANSENSE

AN EVENING OF GLAMOUR

By VICTORIA CHAPPELLE

YOU are going out this Christmas? Or celebrating the festival at home among your own circle? In any case, an evening gown of restrained glamour, such as has struck a new note in the latest London collections, will best become hostess or guest.

The difference in styles shown in evening gowns in London is probably caused by the fact that while there are few important occasions on which full toilettes can be worn in London itself, the demand overseas does not seem to have slackened.

In consequence, you see such difference in line as that in the Norman Hartnell collection where

magnificent strapless gowns in Duchess satin, velvet, silk and tulle brought applause. These dresses are designed for occasions where the wearer could make an "entrance" into a room or at the head of a staircase—and, to add an additional hint of allure, yard upon yard of tulle is often swathed round the wearer's bare shoulders. With gowns like these are worn the ruffled hooded capes which Peter Russell showed in his collection.

As a foil to this décolleté magnificence, Peter Russell shows a dinner dress in dark green tulle with modillions trimming three-quarter sleeves and high neckline of the fitted bodice, worn over a stonced skirt strongly influenced by the fashions of 1880.

But almost as popular as the strapless type of gown is the very décolleté sleeved dress, or the sleeveless with a mock-modest neckline and shoulder straps, which call attention to white shoulders. Illustrated here are two dresses which are typical of this trend—a Hardy Amies model in ruby red velvet with a daring décolleté above a princess line reminiscent of the first decade of this century, and a Norman Hartnell dress of bronze slipper satin with iridescent bead embroidery on the shoulder straps.

As already mentioned, this combination of almost no décolleté and half-high shoulders is one of the most alluring lines in the collections.

But with all their glamour, the evening gowns generally are on a restrained note which, in fact, adds to their attractiveness.



IDEAS FOR A MERRY PARTY

ARE you the hostess of the party? If so, here are some ideas to help keep every one amused.

A Merry Christmas to you all! Have you all got your pencils and paper ready? Let's start off with a few puzzles.

A man has to paint numbers on the front doors of a street of 100 houses numbering 1 to 100. How many times did he paint the figure 9?

ANSWER: Twenty; not 10, as I thought. I jumped in my calculation from 80 to 99, forgetting 90, 91, 92, 93, etc.

I WAS rather baffled by this one. Three fathers and three sons go into a bar. Each buys a round of drinks. How many drinks altogether do they buy?

ANSWER: Sixteen drinks. They were son, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Maybe after that you will like a change. What's it to be? Anagrams? All right. Try this.

1. A European Film. (Two Words). **SLURTVIEWIT.**

2. A Pantomime. (Four Words). **DWHTSEBNAOEBO.**

3. A Christmas Treat. (One Word). **BRKACEC.**

4. A European Capital. (One Word). **GBDREUNH.**

ANSWER: (1) Oliver Twist; (2) Babes in the Wood; (3) Cracker; (4) Edinburgh.

SO much for puzzles. Meantime, let's have a game. Here's one I played at a party the other week. It may not be new to some of you, but it was a treat to me—and gave us a lot of fun.

Like most parlour games, it wants a spokesman or referee, who, in this case, acts as a travel agent. He must explain to the party that they have to imagine they are about to set off on a long trip or cruise on which each person may take only two articles.

He asks each guest in turn to say what two things he or she would choose. The guest must reply: "I am going in a cruise, and I am taking with me . . . and . . ."

If the player answers correctly, the referee says, "You can go."

The game goes on until each member of the party has chosen correctly, and has been given the O.K. to travel.

If I were at the party my choice would be "a duster and a muffler". Then, on the second time round, "a doormat and a mackintosh".

Got the idea? No? Well, if, say, Nathaniel Gubbins were also at the party he would have to select "a nightcap and goloshes".

Got it now? The passport, of course, is to name two articles beginning with your own initials.

You'll be surprised how long it takes some of those who have not met the game before to tumble to the clue, and for those "in the know" what brain-searching is needed to invent fresh articles to fit their initials with each succeeding round.

HOW about bringing an old favourite up to date? Lots of you perhaps know it as "Birds, Beasts, Flowers and Fishes". Here it is in the guise of a Personality Parade.

Given a letter of the alphabet and a time limit of, say, three minutes, can you fill in this list? To show you what I mean I have taken the letter "S" for the sample below:

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT— Shaw.

FILM STAR— Simmons (Jean).
CROONER— Sinatra (Frank).
INVENTOR— Stephenson.
DRAMATIST— Shaw.
AUTHOR— Saroyan (William).
FOOTBALLER— Sproston.
JOCKEY— Smith (J.).
ACTRESS— Swinburne (Nora).
BAND LEADER— Shadwell (Charles).
COMEDIAN— Stainless Stephen.

A FARMER instructed his shepherd to pen his flock in a pen made from ordinary hurdles. To make a pen large enough to hold his flock the shepherd had to use almost all the hurdles on the farm.

Later the same day the farmer announced the arrival of another flock of sheep of the same number of animals as his original flock. He told the shepherd to pen them with the others. This shepherd did so. How many extra hurdles did he have to use?

ANSWER: Two. Original pen 6 hurdles long, one hurdle wide. Add one hurdle to width and thereby double size of pen.

DON'T be frightened at this game; it's quite easy. Hand out slips of paper. Each player writes at the top of the slip a

NOUN

folds the paper over and passes it on. Next he writes down an

ADJECTIVE

Then he writes a

VERB

folds and throws the slip into a heap. Each player picks at random one slip from the heap. He must then write a verse—limerick, sonnet or what you will—bringing in the three words. Now, you budding Tennysons! Get busy!

present, but don't allow anybody to fuss him or make him the centre of attention. Treat him exactly as you would if nobody else were there.

After a time he will get used to company, and when he does have the chance to play with other children he will join in unselfishly.

THE aggressive type of child needs something constructive to divert his energies. He may be full of high spirits—in which case his should be encouraged as soon as possible to work them off in an active team game.

Or his aggressiveness may be a cover-up for shyness. He shouts and fights because, secretly, he feels "out of it".

The remedy is to make him feel useful. If he is the host, explain to him that it is his place to make all his small guests feel at home, and have a happy time.

If he is a guest, ask your hostess—not to give him some job to do helping her. This will give him the self-confidence he needs and tone down any tendencies to riot.

Many children are "naughty" on a social occasion simply because

they are over-excited and overfed. Don't talk too much about the treat beforehand and if possible insist on a short calming-down rest on the day itself.

Look out for danger signals—too much loud laughter and shouting. If, at that stage, you can get your child to sit quietly beside you for five minutes, you will probably be able to avert the tantrums.

Oddly enough, it isn't the child who eats heartily at a party who is most likely to have a stomach upset. It is the nervous child who is pressed to eat.

It may be disappointing for a hostess to see a child turning aside from the cakes and sweets she has made with such care. But he will be far more likely to eat them if he is left alone.

PARTY manners cannot be separated from everyday manners. It is no good letting your child be wild and uncontrolled at home, and then telling him before he sets off to "see you behave politely." He won't.

It works the other way. On the whole most children are less poised and well-behaved in strange surroundings than in familiar ones.

In any case, don't make a fuss. Don't tell him that you were "amused" of the way he behaved. Anything that adds to his self-consciousness will make matters worse.

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YULETIDE FEASTING

CHOOSE A SMALL BIRD and COOK IT THIS WAY

SELECTION is extremely important with any kind of poultry, but today the housewife's task is made considerably easier, as birds are carefully graded in all the big shops.

Staleness in Turkeys or chickens shows very little until they are actually on your plate.

Fine Skin

Choose birds of fine skin—the colour is not so important as the fineness of the pores. Although white-skinned birds are supposed to be more tender, with good cooking a yellow-skinned bird can come to the mouth as tender as a peach.

Turkey is best eaten hot—cold turkey having a tendency to taste rather like tough mutton. Don't then, buy too large a bird. It's usually safe to allow two to three pounds of

waste in reckoning your size of bird—an eight-pound turkey for six people, a ten-pound turkey for seven or eight people, and so on.

The best possible way to cook both turkey and chicken is in a covered aluminium baking dish with ventilator top. You are then saved all basting troubles, and need not touch the bird until half an hour before serving, when you either remove the lid of the baking dish or open the ventilator wide.

Wipe your bird over with a clean cloth, wrung out in warm water. Use small, neat wooden skewers to fasten up the stuffing, and be rather extravagant with the butter you use for basting.

On this important occasion you should allow yourself from ¼ to ½ lb. of butter in which to cook the bird. Melt the butter in a small saucepan and pour it over the bird just before it goes in the oven. If you wish a crisp skin to the bird, flour, pepper and salt the bird lightly before pouring on the butter.

Cook slowly in a moderate oven, increasing the heat for the browning process of the last half-hour. Allow 15 minutes' cooking per pound of bird, plus the extra half-hour at the end.

Stuffings

What you stuff the birds with is entirely a question of your individual palate. A chestnut stuffing is excellent with either turkey or chicken at this time of year.

For this allow one pound of chestnuts to a good-sized bird, and boil them thoroughly in their skins first. Then plunge into cold water and leave for ten minutes. By that time the skins should come off quite easily, including the brown, fibrous underskin.

Found the chestnuts very finely. Bind the nuts with a little butter and either cream or eggs. Add salt, pepper, and a tiny pinch of mustard to flavour, and fill the bird tightly.

The Joint

Your Christmas beef should be ten days old; then it will be in really perfect condition. Wing rib and sirloin are the most popular joints.

The flesh should be bright red. If it is at all purple it is stale and if it is a very pale red it will be tough.

Wipe the joint over with a wet cloth and then flour thoroughly with flour in which you have salt and pepper in your dredger.

Cook in a deep dish with a good sized knob of butter on top as well as any beef dripping you may have.

Baste all joints frequently unless you are using a cover. Serve with butter pudding and at least two vegetables.

Reminding You

ANSWER these questions. It may save you disappointment during the holidays.

Have you made an appointment with the hairdresser for December 20, 22 or 24? Your hair is sure to need re-setting after Christmas.

Are you sure that you have in the house—and in working order—a tin-opener, corkscrew, beer bottle opener, nutcrackers, knife-sharpener?

Is your medicine cupboard well-stocked with aspirin, bicarbonate of soda, iodine and sticking plaster?

Have you several pairs of stockings washed and mended ready to wear? You don't want to have to start darning as you are changing for the party.

Have you enough money in the house—particularly small change—to carry you over the holidays?

Is the house well supplied with cigarettes and matches?

Have you got some cooking brandy to set the Christmas pudding on fire? Warm the brandy before you light it.

Are you fully supplied with face powder, cream, rouge, lipstick, setting lotion and scent to last you over the Christmas week-end?

Have you one or two extra presents in hand, in case unexpected guests come to your house?

Is the larder amply stocked with cold and tinned food? You never know when you will have to provide an extra meal or a snack.

Have you written down a rough plan for meals for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and the Monday after, so that you needn't worry about them during the holiday?

Sauces and seasoning for poultry

GIVE that extra flavour to the Christmas poultry dish with appropriate sauces and seasonings.

SEASONING FOR ROAST FOWL

Ingredients: One cup breadcrumbs, 1 dessertspoon chopped parsley, 1 dessertspoon butter or finely chopped beef suet, grated rind of lemon, salt and pepper, little powdered thyme and marjoram (1 egg yolk or a tablespoon milk to bind if required).

Method: Mix the breadcrumbs with the seasonings, rub in the butter, and use dry, or add egg yolk or milk to bind, as preferred. Place the seasoning in the prepared fowl, whence the crop was removed, and fold the flap of skin smoothly over the back of the neck, folding the ends of the pinions backwards and under, to secure it.

OYSTER STUFFING (Roast Turkey)

Ingredients: Two cups fine breadcrumbs, salt and pepper, ½ teaspoon grated lemon rind, 1 teaspoon powdered marjoram, 2 tablespoons melted butter, 1 dessertspoon chopped parsley, 18 to 24 oysters.

Method: Mix the crumbs, salt, pepper, lemon rind, marjoram, parsley, and melted butter in a basin. Remove beards from shelled oysters, mix with other ingredients, and use oyster stuffing for turkey.

SAGE AND ONION SEASONING (Duck, Goose, Pork)

Ingredients: Two onions 1 cup breadcrumbs, 1 tablespoon butter, salt and pepper, pinch of sugar and grated nutmeg, 1 teaspoon powdered sage.

Method: Put peeled onions in a saucepan with cold water, boil,

drain, cover with fresh boiling water, and simmer until tender. Drain, and press as dry as possible, chop finely, and mix crumbs and seasonings. Mix with melted butter, and use for seasoning duck, goose, pork, &c.

BREAD SAUCE (Roast Fowl or Turkey)

Ingredients: Half a pint milk, ½ cup breadcrumbs, 2 cloves, 1 blade of mace, 1 onion, 1 dessertspoon butter, salt and cayenne.

Method: Peel onion and put into saucepan with milk, mace, and cloves. Heat very slowly to boiling point, and add crumbs. Cover tightly with lid, and leave in warm part of stove for 15 to 20 minutes, until bread softens and thickens mixture. Remove onion, cloves, and mace, add butter, and season with salt and cayenne (a little grated nutmeg is an improvement). Beat lightly with a fork, re-heat, and serve hot, with roast fowl or turkey.

APPLE SAUCE (Goose, Duck or Pork)

Ingredients: Four tart apples, 2 tablespoons water, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 dessertspoon butter, ½ teaspoon grated lemon rind, little grated nutmeg.

Method: Peel, core, and thinly slice apples with a silver or stainless knife. Put into saucepan with water, cover with lid, and simmer until tender. Beat to pulp with a fork or rub through a sieve. Return to saucepan. Add sugar, butter, nutmeg, lemon rind, and stir while reheating, simmering for a few minutes before serving with roast duck, goose, or pork.

If you must mix your drinks...



CHRISTMAS drinks are likely to be even more elastic than Christmas fare, and most of us will be hard put to it to stretch them as far as hospitality demands.

It has been wisely suggested that we might venture to return to those good old English drinks, made mostly with ale or cider, which were good enough for our forebears and found their most popular form in the Wassail Bowl. Like the flaming bowl of Snopdragon, the wassail bowl has become connected with Christmas and the New Year, though it is of course suitable for any festive occasion—the word "wassail" simply being an old English form of salutation.

For the same reason the contents of the bowl may vary, and in addition to the usual mixture, I am going to suggest one or two other and simpler drinks which may well

assist us in wassailing this Christmas or on New Year's Eve. These pleasant brews will certainly help the drinks to go round, and perhaps remind us with some pride of the past.

MULLED ALE

Put a quart of good ale in a saucepan, and add a tablespoonful of sugar, a pinch of ground cloves, a pinch of nutmeg and a large pinch of ground ginger. Bring nearly to the boil, and then add a wineglassful of rum.

BROWN CAUDLE

Mix two large spoonfuls of fine oatmeal with a quart of mild ale, and leave it for two hours. Then strain the beer from the meal, and bring it nearly to the boil. Sweeten it to taste, and add a glass or two of sherry and a touch of grated nutmeg or a squeeze of lemon juice, if available.

CIDER PUNCH

Put a quart of cider into a saucepan with a few lumps of sugar or their equivalent in white sugar. Add an orange stuck with a few cloves, bring to the boil and boil for two or three minutes. Then add a glass of whisky, and pour the punch, orange and all, into your bowl, serving it very hot.

OLD ENGLISH PUNCH

Rub the rind of a lemon on a quarter of a pound of lump sugar; but it would be better nowadays to flavour the sugar with lemon essence. Dissolve this in a little boiling water, and then add half a pint of nearly boiling ale, a quarter of a pint of good strong hot tea, and a wineglassful of rum. If it is possible, a wineglassful of brandy should be added as well, but this is a counsel of perfection.

WASSAIL BOWL

Bring a quart of ale nearly to the boil, and add a good flavouring of cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger to your taste, half a bottle of sherry, two slices of toasted bread, the juice of a lemon or its equivalent in good lemon flavouring or squash, two well-baked apples, and sugar to taste. Heat it all up until very hot, and serve from the warmed bowl.

JACQUAR SQUARES

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THE PUDDING . . .

EVERY housewife's catch phrase at the moment: "I must get that pudding made as soon as I can spare the time." Here is the recipe you'll need—and the recipe for the cake.

INGREDIENTS: 4ozs. plain flour; 4ozs. breadcrumbs; 3ozs. fat (lard or lard or dripping plus margarine); 2ozs. sugar and 1 tablespoon syrup (or 3ozs. sugar); 2 level tablespoons dried egg; 1 teaspoon baking powder; ½ level teaspoon salt;

½lb. dates; ½lb. other dried fruit; 2-3 tablespoons grated orange rind or marmalade; 1 level teaspoon each of allspice, ground ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg; 2 tablespoons lemon squash (or water flavoured with lemon essence); ½ teaspoon almond essence; ½ teaspoon rum essence (optional).

1 large dessertspoon gravy browning; ¼ pint stout or old ale, any kind of wine or spirits, or milk.

SIFT all dry ingredients and mix well. Clean, dry and—where necessary—chop the fruit. Add the essences and other liquid (including the syrup if used) to the beer, spirits or milk.

Add suet—or rub in the fat—to the dry mixture. Add the fruit and mix well with the liquid. Put into a greased pudding basin—size 7½ inches in diameter.

Steam or boil fairly briskly for four hours. Before serving, steam or boil for a further two to three hours.



FRUIT: Dates give a rich flavour, sultanas a "winey" one. Prunes add flavour, but too many make cake or pudding tart. The same applies to apple rings, too many of which will also prevent the pudding keeping well.

WARNING: You can vary the quantity of fruit or nuts used. Fruit can be increased up to 1½lb. for the cake, 1½lb. for the pudding. But don't vary basic amounts of fat, sugar and eggs in proportion to flour.

NUTS: Chestnuts or almonds. Use 6ozs. for cake, 4ozs. for pudding, minced or chopped finely.

SPICES: Amount depends on freshness. Taste after final mixing—you may need more.

SPIRITS: These preserve cake or pudding. Without them, make cake only 8-10 days in advance, pudding 4 weeks in advance.

& THE CAKE

INGREDIENTS: 12ozs. plain flour; 1 teaspoon baking powder; ½ level teaspoon salt; 4 level tablespoons dried egg; 4-6ozs. margarine or cooking fat (or a mixture); 4ozs. syrup; 1 to 1½lb. dried fruit (minced); 2 tablespoons chopped candied orange peel or 2 tablespoons marmalade. One teaspoon mixed spice; ½ pint liquid made up of 1 dessertspoon almond, orange and lemon flavourings, mixed and undiluted orange squash, or ginger wine or any other wine you have; gravy browning.

CLEAN and chop the fruit. Melt the syrup and fat. Mix or sift flour, baking powder, salt, egg powder and spice. Beat the syrup and fat until cool. Add the flour mixture, orange squash or wine, and the chopped fruit.

Add 8 tablespoons cold water (to reconstitute eggs) and 1 teaspoonful gravy browning (optional). Mix and turn into a prepared tin. Bake on a low shelf in a moderate oven (Reg. 4) for about ½ hour then in a very moderate oven (Reg. 2) for a further three hours.

Instead of syrup you can use the same amount of sugar. Warm but do not melt, fat and sugar and beat creamy.

To prepare the tin nine inches diameter for these ingredients:

Cut a piece of greaseproof paper to fit the bottom of the tin, and a straight strip to go round the sides. This should be deep enough to stand about one inch above the edge of the tin and turn in a little at the bottom. Grease the paper on both sides.

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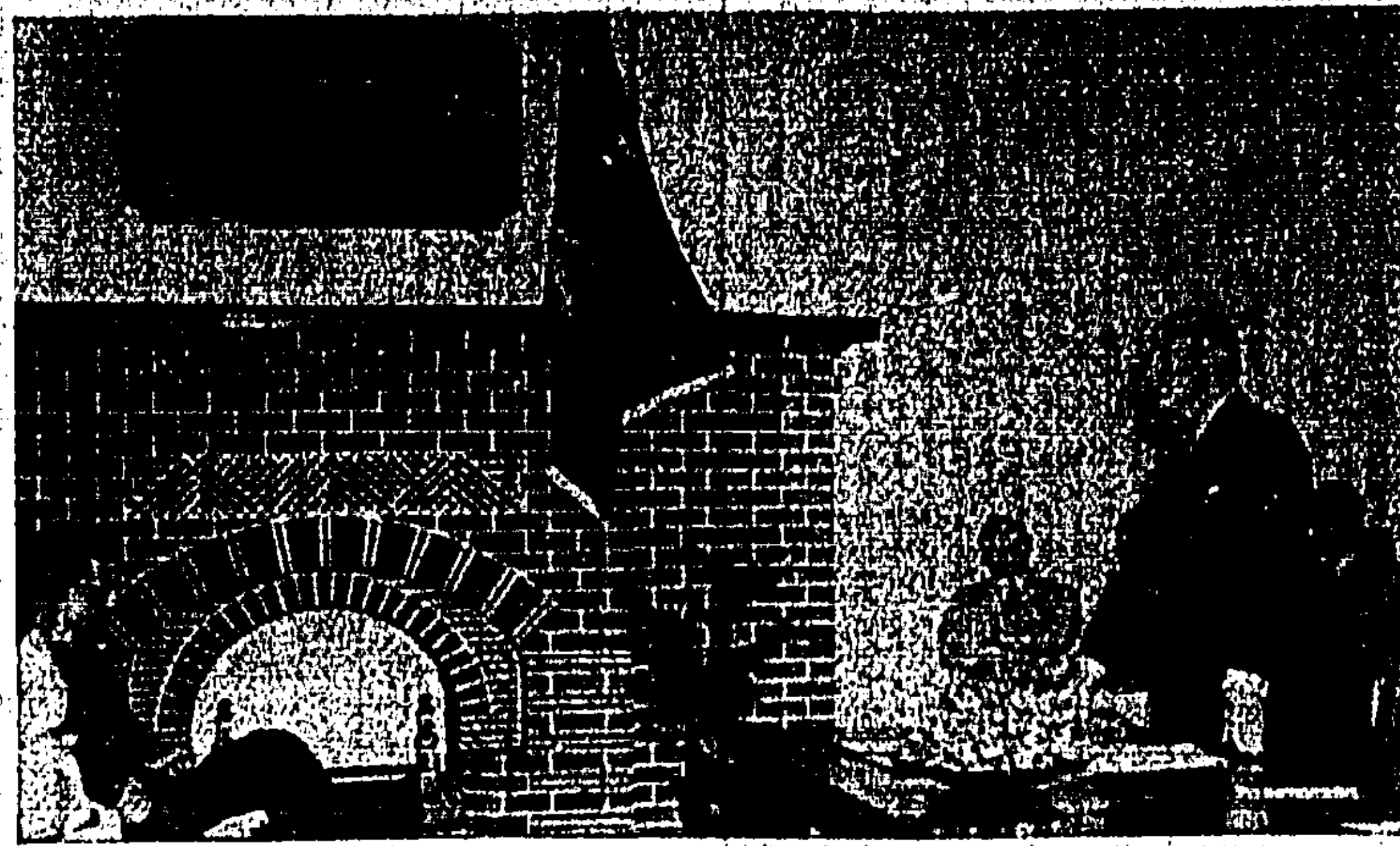
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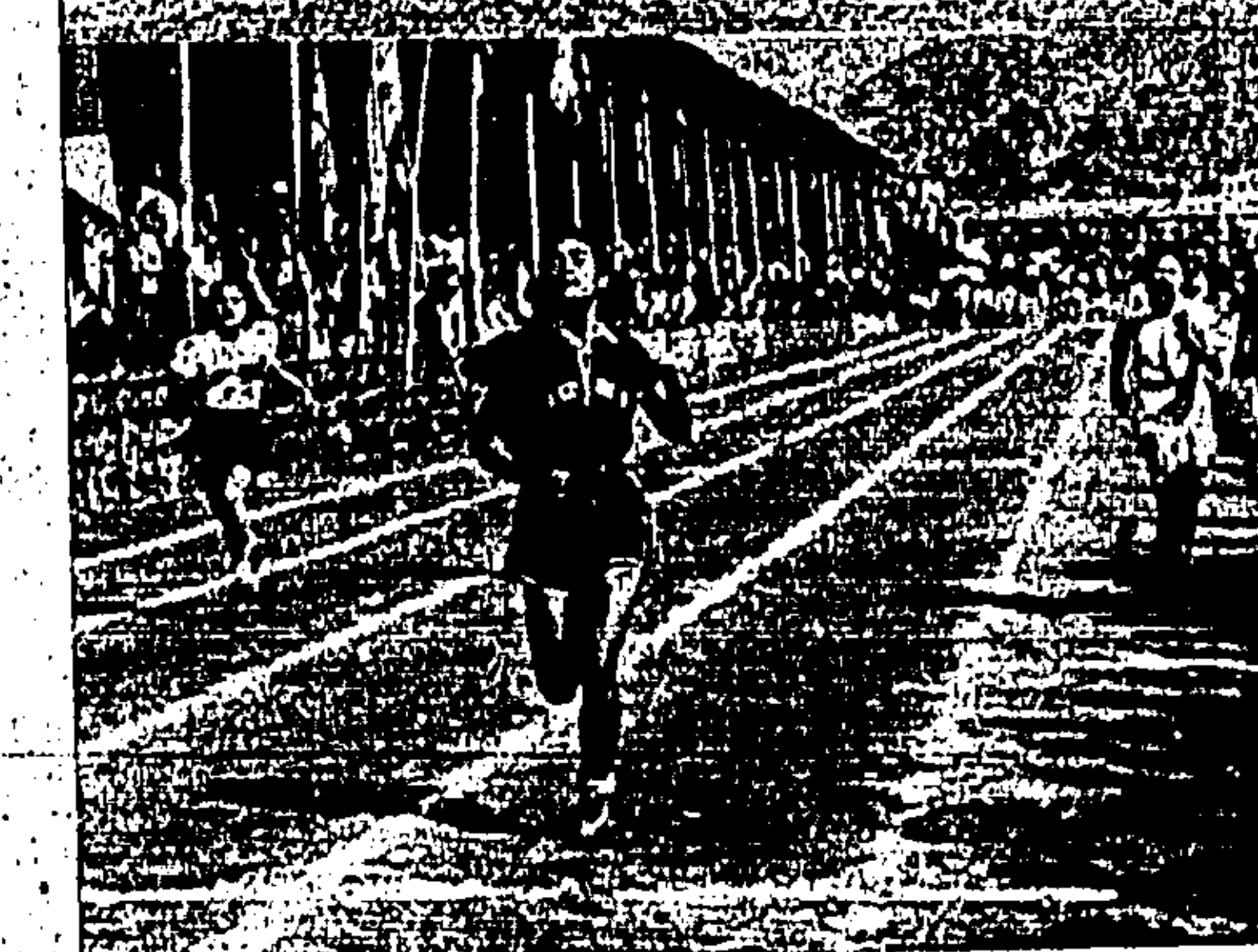


MORRISON HALL was reopened last week by His Excellency the Governor. At left, the Governor is seen on his arrival together with Sir Robert Kotowall, chairman of the Board of Control, and the Vice-Chancellor, the Hon. D. J. Sloss. Right: Sir Alexander Grantham addressing the gathering after unveiling a memorial tablet to old Morrisonians who died during the war. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)



PICTURE taken at the Chinese YMCA on Sunday evening when the Harmonica Band, conducted by Mr Watson Chan, gave an enjoyable concert. On the same programme were Mr Poon Ching-yoo, harmonica soloist, and Miss K. Y. Auyeung, soprano, who are shown at left. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)

THE touring Singapore Chinese table tennis team, who played three games with local clubs at the Chinese YMCA this week. The tourists lost the series. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)

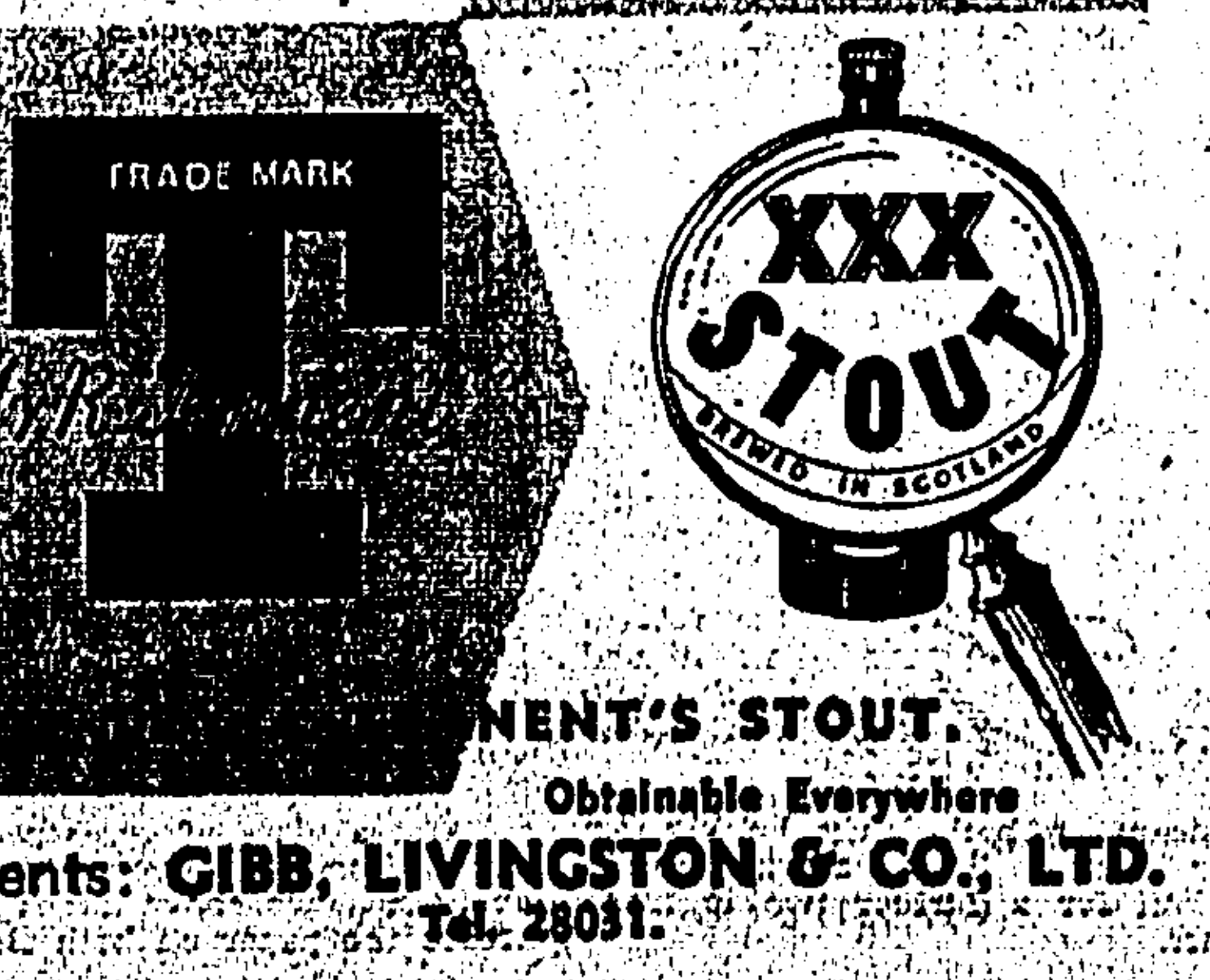
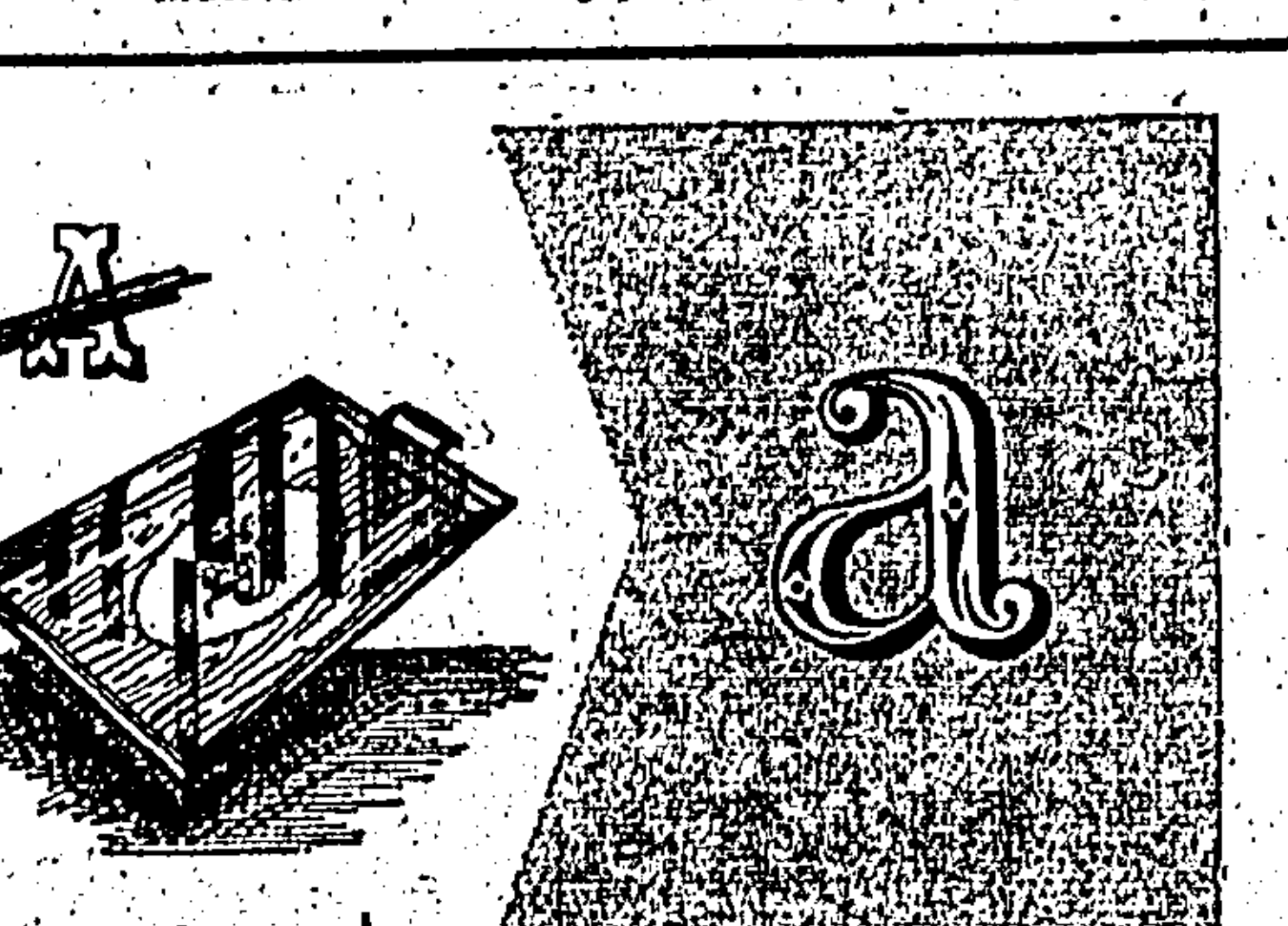


MEMBERS of the Sports Club honouring a toast at a cocktail party given on Wednesday to celebrate the Club's 20th birthday. At extreme left is HE the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, Mr H. F. Shields, chairman of the Club, is third from left in a light suit. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)



TWO pictures taken at a cocktail party at the United Services Recreation Club last week. Mr and Mrs Cator, Major and Mrs Ponaluna and Mr Peill are included in the group on top. Lower picture shows Capt. and Mrs Varley and friends. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)

ST Joseph's Collegio and the Heung Tao Girls' School won the senior boys' and girls' championships respectively at the inter-school athletic sports held at Caroline Hill last Sunday. Top and middle photos above show the members of the champion teams. The bottom picture is of Miss Mui Shun-ngan, of Heung Tao, winning the 100 metres; she also came first in the 60 and 200 metres and the long jump. (Golden Studio)



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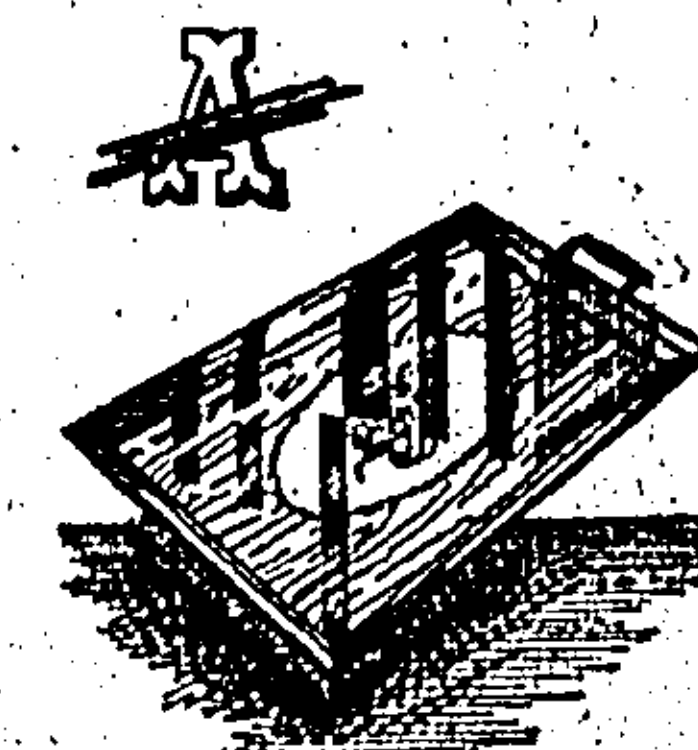
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PHOTO taken at Christ Church on Wednesday after the marriage of Mr Richard George Labrum and Miss Ethel Wyllie. (Telegraph Staff Photographer)

RIGHT: At St. John's Cathedral last Saturday, after the wedding of Mr K. N. Soane and Miss Lena Ng. (Ming Yuen)



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GREAT LAWYERS

by Sir

Patrick Hastings K.C.

Two cheap pearls that wrecked a Marshall Hall 'triumph'

A day earmarked in the career of every successful man is that in which he became his own master. Such a day came for Sir Patrick Hastings when Mr Horace Avory, was made a judge and Hastings took over his chambers.

Now began the era of great lawsuits in which Sir Patrick was to figure for the next 30 years. Today he describes the famous lawyers and advocates with whom he battled in the courts.

ONE morning I woke up and found that Horace Avory, upon continued association with whom I based so many of my future hopes, had been made a judge.

All my affluent and prosperous surroundings disappeared in a moment. I should have to begin all over again.

Then suddenly came inspiration. Why should I not become my own master, and take over the famous chambers at No. 4, Crown Office-row in the Middle Temple?

It would, of course, mean the payment of a heavy rent, the expense of clerks and other liabilities, none of which I could afford.

The risk seemed appalling... but... I came to my decision as I walked to the Temple.

Avory was sitting in his room, and I went in to congratulate him. I told him I was going to take over his chambers myself.

His reply was: "Don't be a fool. To begin with, the Inn will never let you have them."

He asked if I could pay the rent: I told him that was very doubtful. He looked distinctly depressed, and even more than usually forbidding.

"I suppose that means that I pay it and you owe it?" I was bound to confess that that seemed quite possible. He came back to his table. He said: "Well, if you are determined to make a fool of yourself I don't suppose I ought to stop you. What are you going to do about furniture?"

I told him that I had not got any. So he said: "In that case I suppose I had better give you mine."

But he was determined to maintain his reputation for heartlessness. His last words were, "I'm damned if I'll give you my books!"

Best judge I ever knew

Generosity would seem to be a poor word to describe his conduct. He kept on the chambers and allowed me to be the tenant.

He paid the rent and never asked me for a penny; I was allowed to pay it just when and how I liked.

He gave me all his furniture including his beloved chair, which I think was one of the few objects of his affection, and he would never permit a word of thanks. And yet there are some people who still think that Horace Avory was cold and hard.

Avory was a great judge. Upon the whole I think he was almost the best judge I ever knew.

His reputation for cold severity remained with him throughout the many years he sat upon the Bench, but it was quite undeserved; to a guilty criminal he was inflexible and his punishments, though just, were hard. But I am certain that no innocent person was ever convicted in a court over which he presided.

Now, to a barrister a good clerk is not merely a matter of importance; it is essential.

Once again fortune smiled upon me. Avory had a junior clerk named Matthew Robinson. I put the problem before him. If he threw in his lot with me we would be running a great risk and we would have to sink or swim together.

Partnership over forty years

It is well over 40 years ago and I can still remember the discussion. I only hope that he looks back on his decision with as much pleasure as I do.

During 40 years we built up our life together, and during all that time he has been my inseparable companion.

Matthew and I started off on our great enterprise with much enthusiasm but little else. The pretence we put up was magnificent.

To all inquisitive, and no doubt well-meaning, visitors Matthew alleged that we were so busy that we really did not know which way to turn.

But the first six months was a very trying time. In fact, we were only saved by a misguided person sending me a pupil, who for the sum of 100 guineas was afforded the privilege of sitting in my chambers.

We receive a big brief

There was one more misfortune still to come. Just at this time, when it was necessary that I should not leave the Temple even for an hour, I was laid low with a somewhat remarkable complaint for a man of my age—chicken-pox.

I was lying in bed, utterly miserable, convinced that ruin had descended upon me, when Matthew came into the room trembling with suppressed excitement. He had obtained a brief of a remarkable kind and in a most remarkable way.



CROWN OFFICE ROW, where Avory and Hastings had their chambers at No. 4. ON RIGHT → Crown Office-row as it is today.

A man was being prosecuted at Maidstone Assizes. Montague Shearn was appearing at the trial at an enormous fee, and his junior was a man named Hart.

Now it is a rule of all circuits that there must be a circuit junior appearing in the case, and Hart did not possess that qualification.

The solicitors, being informed, picked up the Law List and found that the next name appearing after Hart was Hastings.

For that reason alone Matthew had been able to bring me the brief and a cheque, which was for the unbelievable amount of 400 guineas.

By a 'miracle' I recover

The case was to be heard next day, and although we both agreed that somehow or another I must be at Maidstone by ten o'clock next morning, the insuperable difficulty seemed to be caused by my grievously pockmarked face.

The fact that my temperature was soaring into the hundreds was a matter that we both ignored.

We overcame the disfigurement by the simple expedient of a box of fuller's earth. We found that if applied to a sufficient depth it went far to concealing the ravages of chicken-pox.

The next morning by eight o'clock I was in the train to Maidstone. Feeling like nothing on earth, I spent my time in the darkest corner of the railway carriage accompanied by my faithful pot of fuller's earth.

When I arrived at the court the miracle had happened. The grand jury had thrown out the bill, and the case would not be tried.

By two o'clock that day I was back in bed, which the doctor never knew that I had left. And, what was far more important, the cheque for 400 guineas was safely in my bank.

With such untold wealth at my disposal the future could hold no terrors. The only problem was to decide upon the exact form our prosperity should take.

Matthew, as usual, was well in advance of discretion. He came to the conclusion that six pupils would be no more trouble than one, and as a result, in spite of my futile protests, I found myself burdened with six young gentlemen all anxious to study law.

Fortunately they had plenty to do. County court work, which is the Mecca of the young advocate, began to roll in.

Soon the time arrived when we had to cast our eyes upon the High Court. Matthew decided upon the method to be adopted, namely, that of charging double fees. In fear, lest my income should diminish, I raised a feeble protest, which was immediately dismissed.

As usual, Matthew was right. So far from growing less, my practice increased by leaps and bounds, the fees seemed to make no difference.

My lot was cast, it was the High Court or nothing. But there was still a vital decision to be made.

Lawyer or an advocate?

Barristers fall into two distinct categories: for want of a better term, they may perhaps be divided into lawyers and advocates.

There is no reason for the distinction, but advocates practise in the courts and they are entitled to earn the view that a man should be both a good lawyer and a good advocate.

Marshall's life was a turbulent affair. He was always in trouble with someone or other, and as regular 'staging' he was a regular 'come-back' usually in the Criminal Court.

That being the prevailing view, a young man in his wisdom must throw in his lot upon one side or the other.

I have known many great lawyers, many of whom have received not only my admiration but affection, for strange though it may seem, to be a great lawyer is not necessarily to be a bore.

Of the lawyers I have known I think I should select Wilfrid Greene (now Lord Greene) and Stafford Cripps as the two most perfect.

However cruddle the law and however intricate the facts they both possessed a simplicity of language and a direct approach to the difficulties before them that made the task of judges comparatively easy.

Sir John was always right

Sir John Simon was almost in the same class. Unfortunately, he possessed the quality of being always right. I do not think Simon has ever been inaccurate about anything.

If he had he might have been more human, and instead of ending as Lord Chancellor he might have been Prime Minister.

Of first-class advocates I have known so many. If none of them were Edward Carson, it is not their fault, because who could have been?

Roland Oliver was a most delightful pleader, clear, forceful, and direct, a most dangerous and a most charming friend.

If he had not become a judge he might well have become an outstanding figure in the history of the Bar.

Norman Birckett was another powerful advocate. If ever it had been my lot to take a lady for a stray week-end, and at the conclusion of the entertainment I had decided to cut her into small pieces and place her in an unwanted suitcase, I should unhesitatingly have placed my future in Norman's hands.

The public have strange views on the subject of advocacy. Undoubtedly the popular figure of my time was Sir Edward Marshall Hall. Marshall was a most peculiar personality. If he had been an actor—and it is perhaps a misfortune that he was not—he would have been a worthy successor to William Terriss.

He stalked the boards of life in much the same way that Terriss stalked the boards of the Adelphi Theatre.

Come-back in the grand manner

An admiring woman friend, listening enthralled to Marshall's recitation of one of his perorations at the Old Bailey, was moved to the tearful observation: "Sir Edward, that is not a speech. That is poetry."

No doubt Marshall was delighted, although the precise advantage of poetry in determining the question as to whether or not the gentleman in the dock had murdered a lady in the neighbourhood of the Old Kent Road is not a matter open to discussion.

Marshall's life was a turbulent affair. He was always in trouble with someone or other, and as regular 'staging' he was a regular 'come-back' usually in the Criminal Court.

His appearance in a murder trial was invariably a source of universal public approval. He was surrounded with 'revolvers' and other lethal weapons, and occasionally bottles of deadly poisons, upon all of which he pronounced expert opinions, possibly more 'within the sphere of a witness than an advocate.

But Marshall was impervious to 'climax' and magnificent in his self-confidence. He was an expert in almost everything, particularly as a judge of precious stones, although I am afraid his knowledge was sometimes a trifle superficial.

The expert on pearls

I once fought a case against him which related to pearls. Lady Wood had sent a valuable pearl necklace to a firm of jewellers to be cleaned, and alleged that owing to some neglect the pearls had been injured by excessive heat.

Marshall was for the defence, and he was of course, an expert on pearls. He came into court surrounded by pearls; big pearls, little pearls, and all the appliances required for testing their value.

There were test tubes, microscopes, and scales, in fact, the only thing that appeared to be missing was a complete outfit of oysters to explain their early life.

Marshall's defence was that the pearls could not possibly be affected by heat, and he was prepared to give, and in fact gave, a great deal of personal evidence upon the subject.

We were in danger of being swamped by his enthusiasm, when a Jewish gentleman who was supposed to be helping me handed me two magnificent pearls in a handsome velvet case.

"This 'ere Marshall 'All' seems to know all 'bout pearls," he said. "Show 'im those two and ask 'im which of 'em has been burnt, and 'ow much of its value 'as gone."

Wounded in tenderest spot

Marshall was in his element. He took the pearls and examined them through his microscopes; he bit them and smelt them and applied the appropriate tests, while the whole court awaited his decision with breathless interest. Finally he gave us his expert opinion.

"My lord," he said, holding up the larger of the two, "this pearl has undoubtedly been affected by excessive heat."

"Never mind about that," shouted the little Jew. "Ow much of the value 'as been lost?"

Marshall pondered deeply. "Without further examination it is difficult to express a decided opinion," I should estimate the damage at about £500."

The Jewish gentleman leaped to his feet; for a moment I thought he was going to kiss me.

"Tell 'im they're duds," he said, in a voice that all could hear. "He's two 'ave 'em both for a bob."

Foot: Marshall's 'microscopes were swept on to the floor, and he swept out after them. He had been wounded in his tenderest spot, and it was at least a week before we were friends again.

NEXT WEEK: My first big success in the courts



Sir Edward Marshall Hall "An expert in almost everything."



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Marshall's life was a turbulent affair. He was always in trouble with someone or other, and as regular 'staging' he was a regular 'come-back' usually in the Criminal Court.

His appearance in a murder trial was invariably a source of universal public approval. He was surrounded with 'revolvers' and other lethal weapons, and occasionally bottles of deadly poisons, upon all of which he pronounced expert opinions, possibly more 'within the sphere of a witness than an advocate.

But Marshall was impervious to 'climax' and magnificent in his self-confidence. He was an expert in almost everything, particularly as a judge of precious stones, although I am afraid his knowledge was sometimes a trifle superficial.

The expert on pearls

I once fought a case against him which related to pearls. Lady Wood had sent a valuable pearl necklace to a firm of jewellers to be cleaned, and alleged that owing to some neglect the pearls had been injured by excessive heat.

Marshall was for the defence, and he was of course, an expert on pearls. He came into court surrounded by pearls; big pearls, little pearls, and all the appliances required for testing their value.

There were test tubes, microscopes, and scales, in fact, the only thing that appeared to be missing was a complete outfit of oysters to explain their early life.

Marshall's defence was that the pearls could not possibly be affected by heat, and he was prepared to give, and in fact gave, a great deal of personal evidence upon the subject.

We were in danger of being swamped by his enthusiasm, when a Jewish gentleman who was supposed to be helping me handed me two magnificent pearls in a handsome velvet case.

"This 'ere Marshall 'All' seems to know all 'bout pearls," he said. "Show 'im those two and ask 'im which of 'em has been burnt, and 'ow much of its value 'as gone."

Wounded in tenderest spot

Marshall was in his element. He took the pearls and examined them through his microscopes; he bit them and smelt them and applied the appropriate tests, while the whole court awaited his decision with breathless interest. Finally he gave us his expert opinion.

"My lord," he said, holding up the larger of the two, "this pearl has undoubtedly been affected by excessive heat."

"Never mind about that," shouted the little Jew. "Ow much of the value 'as been lost?"

Marshall pondered deeply. "Without further examination it is difficult to express a decided opinion," I should estimate the damage at about £500."

The Jewish gentleman leaped to his feet; for a moment I thought he was going to kiss me.

"Tell 'im they're duds," he said, in a voice that all could hear. "He's two 'ave 'em both for a bob."

Foot: Marshall's 'microscopes were swept on to the floor, and he swept out after them. He had been wounded in his tenderest spot, and it was at least a week before we were friends again.

NEXT WEEK: My first big success in the courts

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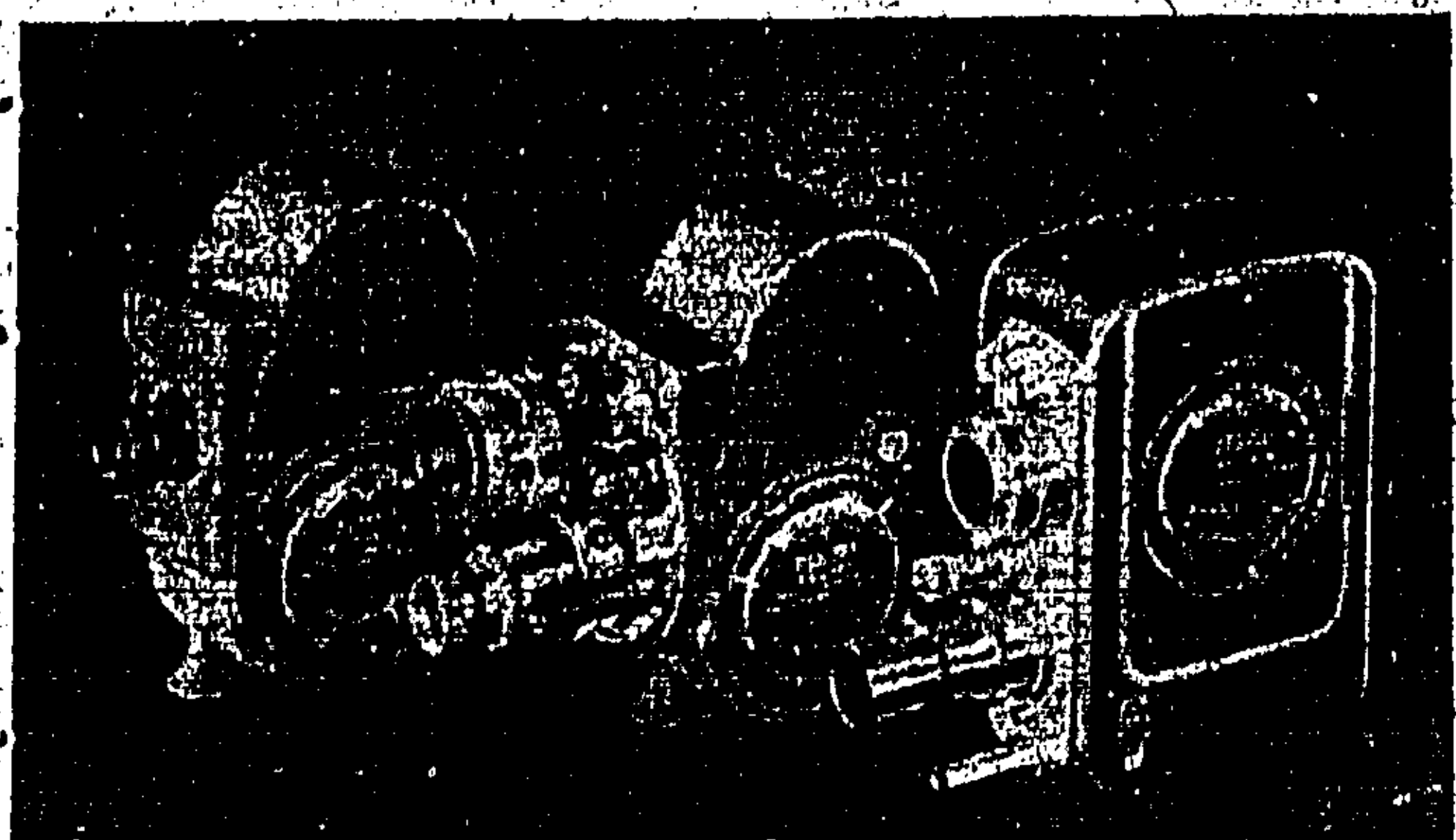
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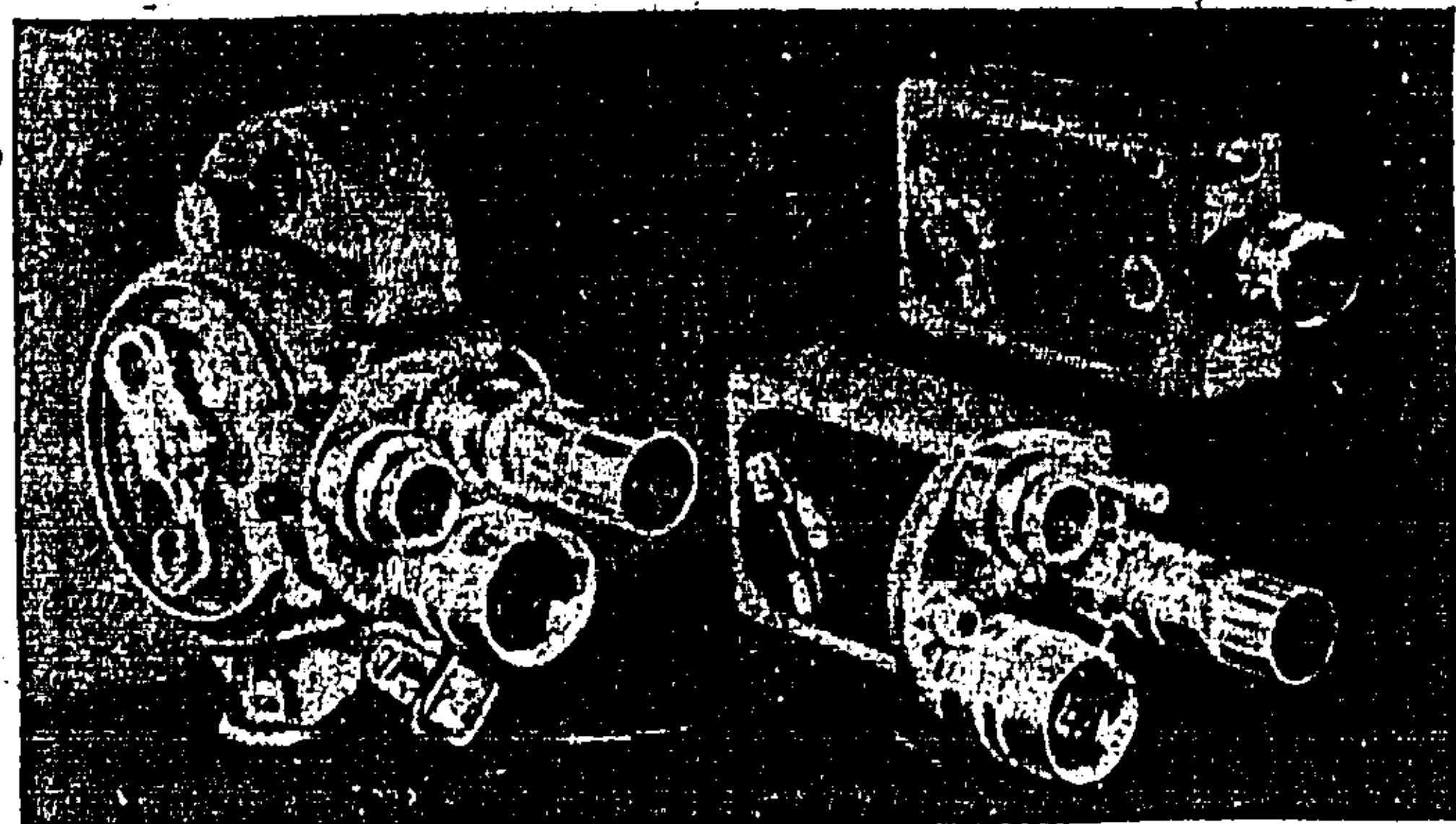
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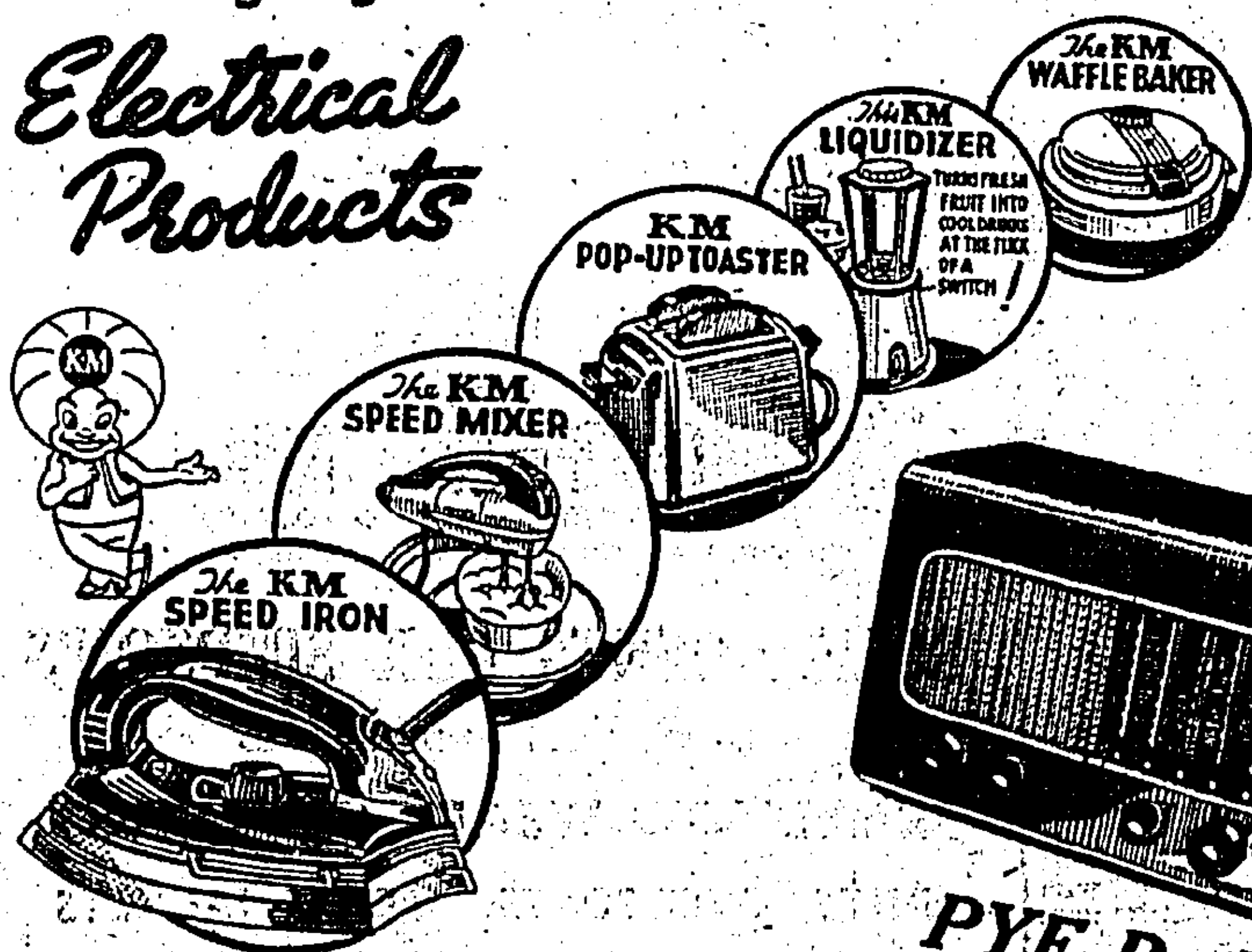
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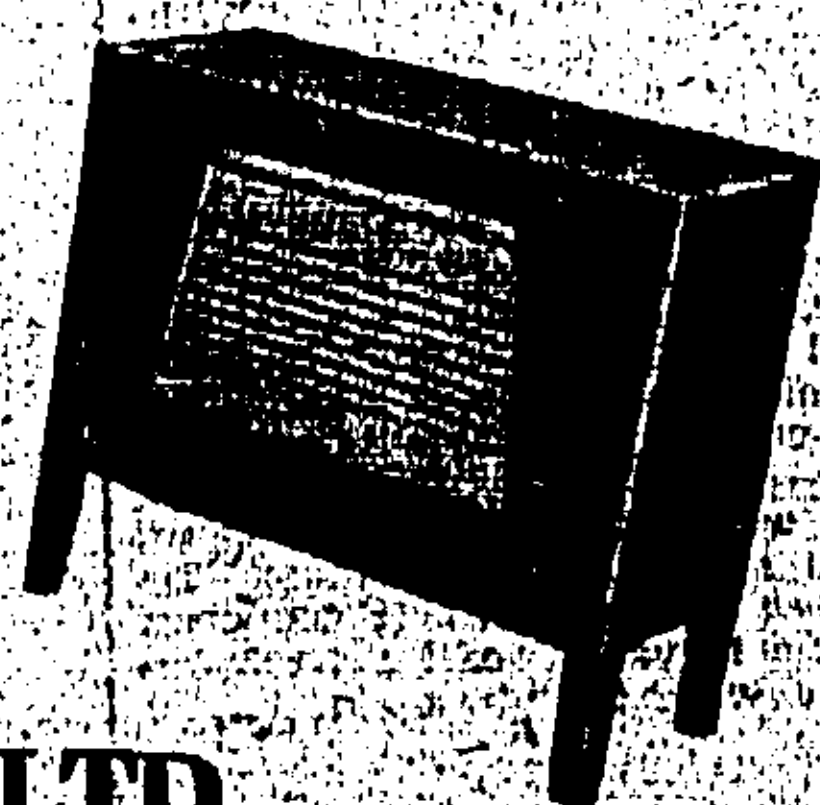
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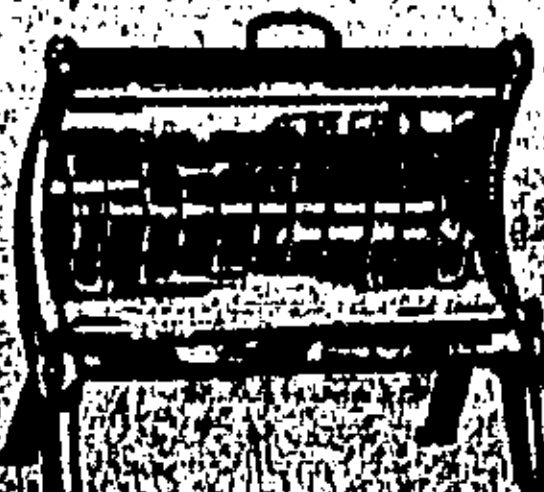
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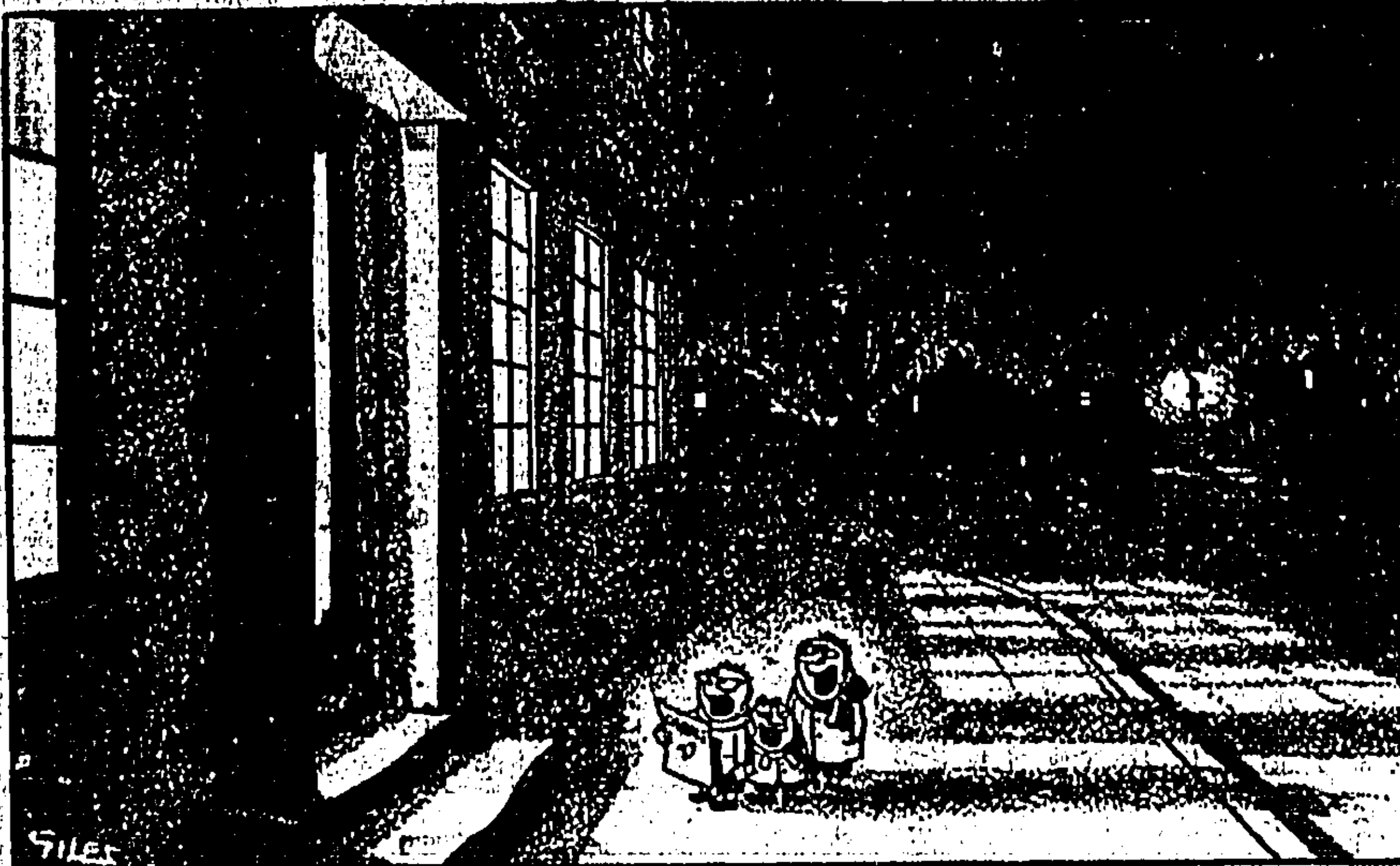
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THE FUTURE IN DOMINOES

LET'S read the future, but, just for a change, not in the cards or the tea leaves, but simply in a set of 28 dominoes, which, (even if you don't ever use them) you probably have tucked away somewhere in a cupboard. You know, of course, that dominoes are by no means a modern game but existed as far back as the days of the ancient Greeks; some people even go so far as to say that in those far-off days, seers foretold the future from the dominoes. Be that as it may, a little fortune-telling is always amusing, especially during the holiday season. All you need is a set of dominoes and the knowledge of what each domino means.

So here goes with the rules:

1. Put all the dominoes face down on a table, or any flat surface, and stir them up thoroughly.

2. Pick out one and jot down its value on a piece of paper (e.g. 5-6, 0-2, 1-1, etc.).

3. Put this domino back with the others and stir them all up again.

In this way, pick out 3 dominoes, noting down their value each time.

One point to remember: if you pick the same domino two or even three times, its meaning is either doubled or tripled.

The messages of your three dominoes, should, when combined, give you a clear answer to the two main questions which dominate everybody: Love (Home Life) and Business.

A word of warning: don't "read the dominoes" too often.....

WHAT THE DOMINOES SAY

6-6 Home Life. Excellent outlook all round. You will be lucky in love. Business. Here also you will have success.

6-5 Home Life. Don't give up; though it may not look like it, you are certain to succeed. Business. Same prospect.

6-4 Home Life. Love has a strong influence over you, but don't let your heart rule your head. Business. The plan you have in mind will succeed, thanks to friends' intervention.

6-3 Home Life. A happy marriage. Business. You'll earn more prestige than money.

6-2 Home Life. Fairly favourable outlook. Business. You will succeed in your present plans if you follow your own good judgment.

6-1 Home Life. You will marry twice. Your second marriage will be happier than the first. Business. Everything will come right, but later than you think.

6-0 Home Life. Bad outlook. "A serious quarrel in the offing." Business. Again a bad outlook. You will lose money.

5-5 Home Life. Good outlook, but this domino is not so favourable as the 6-6. Business. Same outlook.

5-4 Home Life. If you marry the one you think you love, your marriage will be unhappy as this person is unworthy of you. Business. If you are a man, a good outlook. If you are a woman, don't touch it.

5-3 Home Life. You will fall in love with or marry someone who is already a one of your close friends. Good outlook. If you have money troubles, they will disappear. If you have no money, this domino will give you a stroke of good luck.

5-2 Home Life. A quarrel or a clean break is in the offing. Business. There will be unfavourable changes in your finances.

5-1 Home Life. If you have always longed for a child, your dream will come true in the very near future. Business. A pleasant change is coming.

5-0 Home Life. Someone loves you but has not yet told you so. Business. An unlooked-for stroke of luck is coming your way. Good outlook for business affairs.

4-4 Home Life. Don't rush headlong into anything. Don't put too much faith in promises made to you. Business. It won't pay to be rash.

4-3 Home Life. You will get married during the coming year. Business. Your situation will soon change for the better.

4-2 Home Life. Big changes in your private life. Business. Changes here also. A change for the better if your other two dominoes are good; a change for the worse if they are bad. If one is good and the other is bad, it means a change without either improvement or worsening of your situation.

4-1 Home Life. Some unpleasant news. Business. Here again things may go wrong.

4-0 Home Life. Your private life will not come up to expectation. Business. Worries connected with your job, or loss of money.

3-3 Home Life. Excellent. Even if your other two dominoes are bad, with this one, things will take a turn for the better. Business. Same outlook.

3-2 Home Life. You have not yet met the person you will marry, but will do so soon. Business. You will shortly go on a journey.

3-1 Home Life. Be on your guard where love is concerned. Do not undertake anything new. Business. Be careful in business as well.

3-0 Home Life. Don't put too much faith in the opposite sex. Business. Your present plans have little chance of succeeding; don't agree lightly to new proposals.

2-2 Good outlook. This domino is the best in the set. If your other two dominoes are bad, what they say will be influenced for the good; if what they say is already good, things will turn out even better.

2-1 Home Life. You may be sad through a love lost, but Fate has a deeper and better love in store for you. Business. A debt will be repaid to you or you will unexpectedly come into a little money.

2-0 Home Life. A secret romance. Business. A risky deal will come off and prove satisfactory.

1-1 Home Life. If you have quarrelled with someone, you will shortly make it up. Otherwise, you will receive a present. Business. A pleasant, unexpected journey.

1-0 Home Life. Be careful, someone is deceiving you. Business. Be careful here too, you risk being robbed or losing something through carelessness.

0-0 Home Life. This domino acts as a warning not to take any favourable outlook predicted by your other two dominoes over-enthusiastically.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

(In each case, three possible answers are given. Tick the one you think is correct, and check with the solutions on Page 19)

1. The famous "Christmas Oratorio"—actually a collection of six church cantatas intended for performance on different days—was written by:
(a) Handel.
(b) Bach.
(c) Purcell.

2. The song beginning "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" became very popular when it was sung by Bing Crosby in:
(a) "Going My Way."
(b) "Holiday Inn."
(c) "The Road to Morocco."

3. This line will easily bring to mind one of the following Christmas carols, in which it appears.
(a) "Good King Wenceslas."
(b) "The First Noel."
(c) "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen."

4. Christmas Island, discovered by Captain Cook in 1777, is probably the largest atoll in:
(a) The Atlantic.
(b) The Pacific.
(c) The Antarctic.

5. Every Christmas, people have gaily decorated Christmas trees in their houses. The custom of having such trees comes from:
(a) Ireland.
(b) Italy.
(c) Germany.

6. Chips Rafferty, star of the impressive Australian film "The Overlanders," has more recently appeared in:
(a) "White Christmas."
(b) "Bush Christmas."
(c) "The Canterville Ghost."

7. Written for the Christmas of 1842, Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is one of the most charming stories from the pen of that great writer. Can you say which of the following characters did not appear in the story?
(a) Fagin.
(b) Scrooge.
(c) Tiny Tim.

8. In the Roman calendar, December had 30 days. This number was reduced to 29, but Julius Caesar added two days to give the month its present length. The name "December" actually means:
(a) The tenth month.
(b) The last month.
(c) Caesar's month.

9. When the fairy had done her good work, Cinderella was able to go to the ball, but as she hurried away from it she lost a slipper. According to the original story the slipper was of:
(a) Leather.
(b) Fur.
(c) Glass.

10. The Christmas Rose, (which was once considered to be of medical value in cases of mental derangement) is:
(a) An exceptionally hardy rose.
(b) A kind of geranium.
(c) A member of the buttercup family.

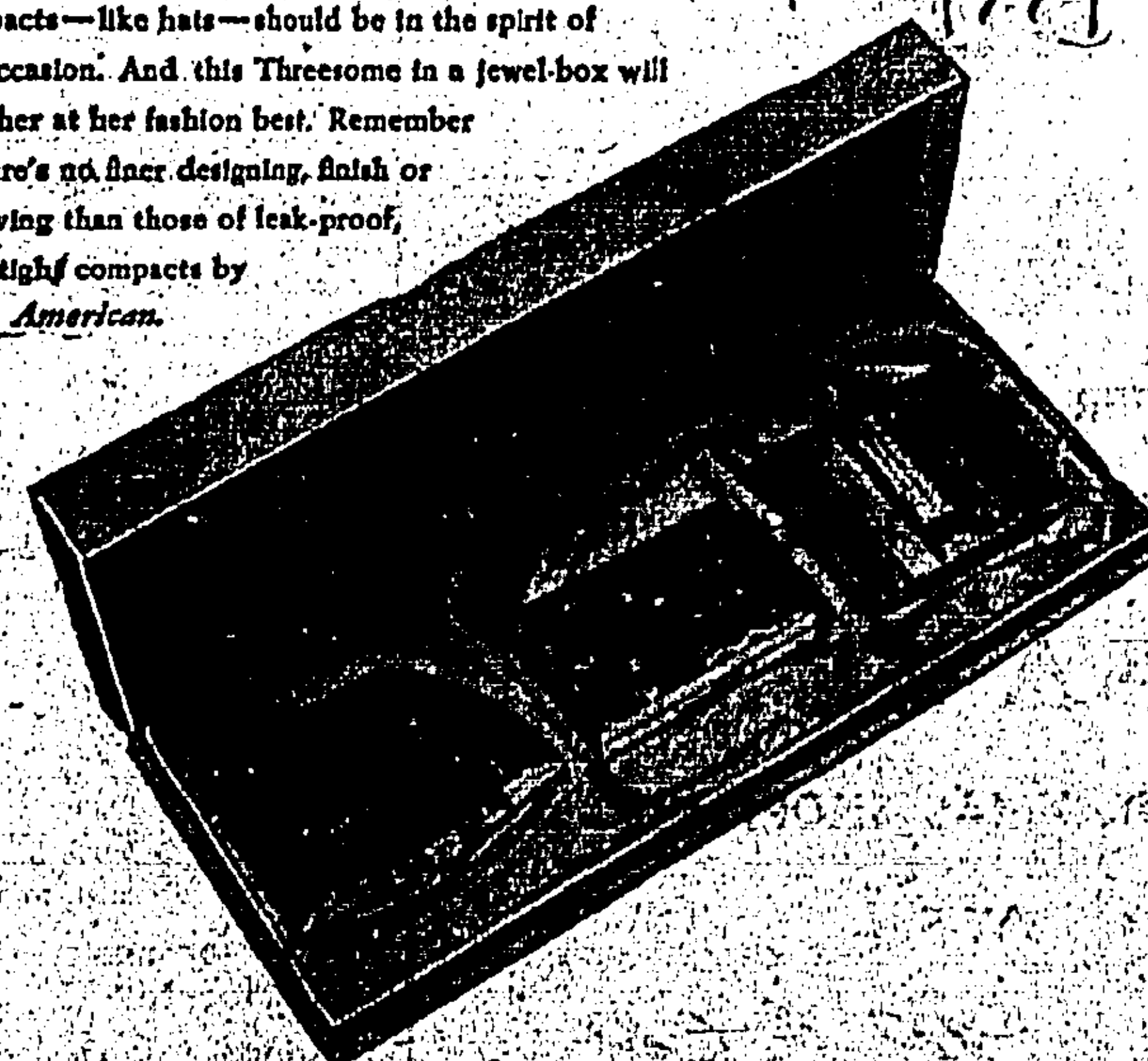
11. The turkey, which swells the tables of the fortunate at Christmas time, was introduced into Europe from:
(a) America.
(b) Turkey.
(c) Australia.

12. "Good King Wenceslas" of the carol, a convert to Christianity, was assassinated in consequence of his endeavour to convert his people. He was the ruler of:
(a) Denmark.
(b) Bohemia.
(c) Poland.

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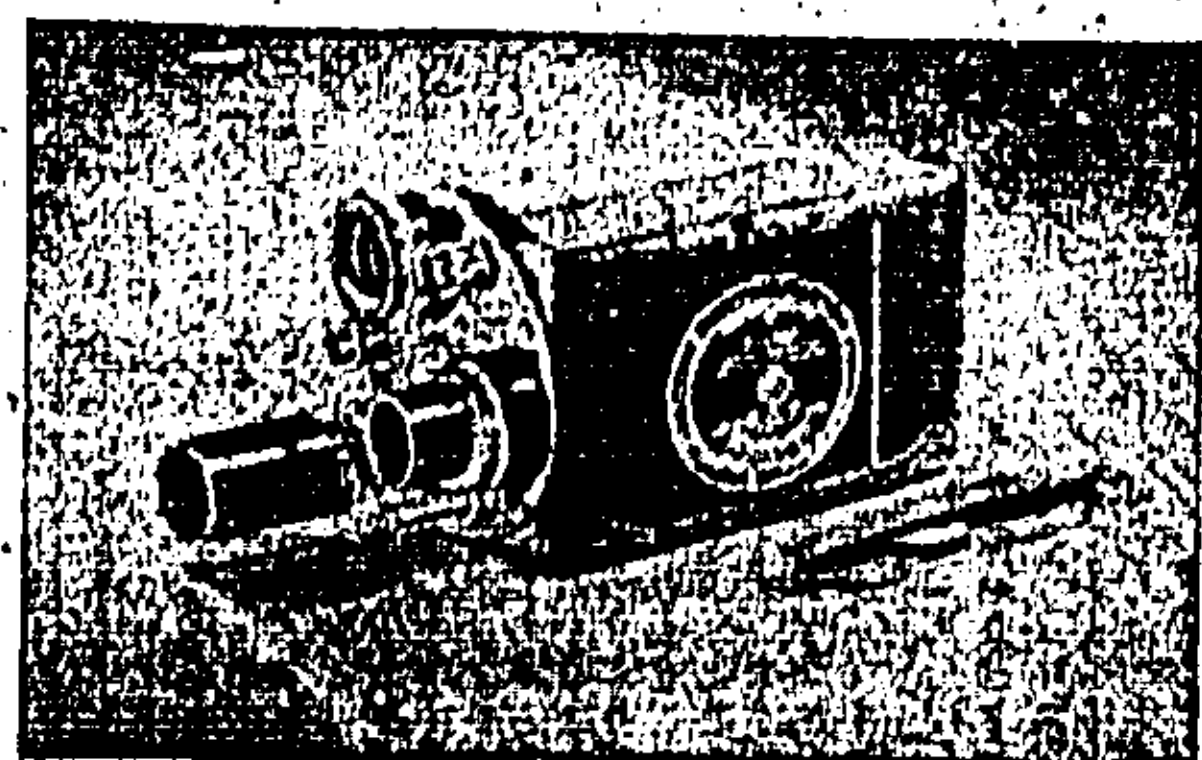
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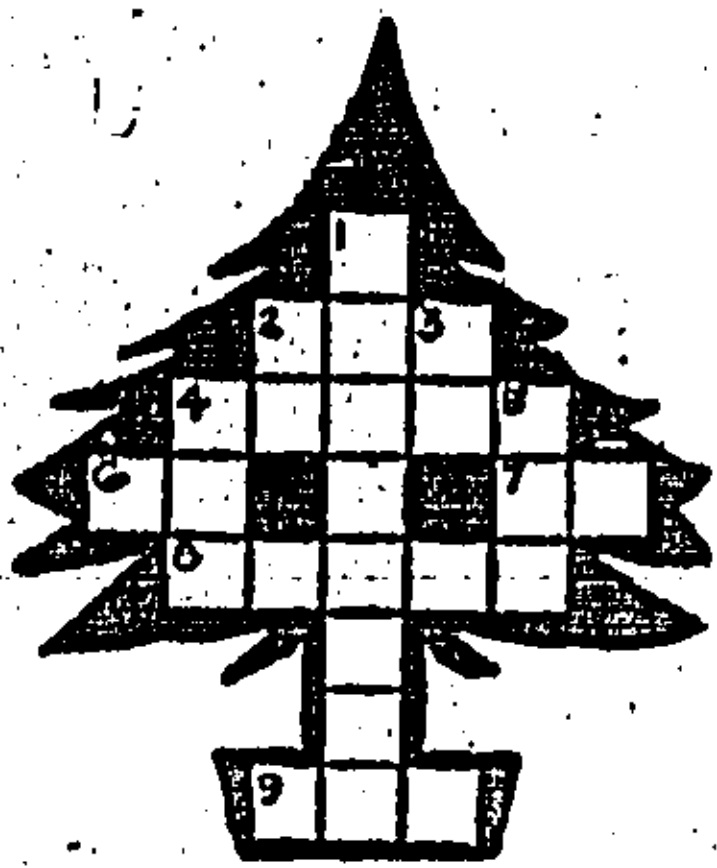


CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SECTION



MENTAL GYMNASIUM

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2 Golf teacher
- 4 Winter vehicles
- 7 Laughter sound
- 8 Proposition
- 9 These are decorated at Christmas
- 9 Snake

DOWN

- 1 It's time to give these
- 2 Plural (ab.)
- 3 Alleged force
- 4 Perched
- 5 Distress signal

CHRISTMAS REBUS

Use the words and pictures to find the names used in various countries for a very important Christmas figure:



DIAMOND

The word diamond is built around this HOLIDAY. The second word is "a spinning toy," the third "stories," the fifth is "part of a bicycle," and the sixth "a girl's nickname."

H
O
L
I
D
A
Y

MISSING VOWELS

We've omitted the vowels and run the words together in our sentence. Can you re-insert the vowels and break the line up to make a statement about Christmas?

THISILDYSNFFPCNRTINDGDD
WLLTWDRMN

MIX-UPS

By rearrangement of the letters in the lines below you can learn two things which are done at this time of year:

TAX FOG FIC SEC HEN
ORE COT FAN SEED TRIO

CODED MESSAGE

A simple code has been substituted for the correct letters in this sentence, but a good cryptographer should have little difficulty with it: KEUGEVU INCA C ITGCV RCTV KP ETQUU-HGTVKNKU-CYKQP QH HNYGTU.

ANSWERS



CHRISTMAS REBUS: Santa Claus; Father Christmas; Saint Nick (St. Nicholas); Pere Noel.

MIX-UPS: Exchange of gifts; Decoration of trees.

MISSING VOWELS: This holiday is one of peace on earth and good will toward men.

DIAMOND:

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CODED MESSAGE: Insects play a great part in cross-fertilisation of flowers.

Rupert and Margot—20



Stumbling down the hillside, Rupert reaches the wood again. He finds that when he leaves the rocks behind the earth does not tremble so much, but he pops into a hollow tree for safety and waits for Margot to join him. The minutes pass but there is no sign of his little friend, and he gets more anxious. "She must have stayed in that cupboard," he thinks. "I do hope that great overhanging cliff hasn't fallen on the tiny house. I must go back and see."

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There's More In Nuts Than Meets Your Eye

By LEE PRIESTLEY

YOU will probably get plenty of nuts over Christmas. And you will no doubt enjoy eating them.

But do you know that there is excellent geography in a bag of mixed nuts?

Since ancient times, nuts have been world travellers to give people the good nourishment concentrated in them. Many nuts come from far corners of the globe and fill the holds of cargo ships sailing the seven seas.

Brazil nuts come from South America, where they grow on majestic forest trees. Native nut hunters find the trees and bring in the nuts to traders.

The life of these nut hunters is not one of safety, for the trees grow deep in the jungles and drop their heavy pods of nuts like bombs! Men have been killed when struck by falling Brazil nuts.

Many almonds, or hazel nuts, come from Spain, but these also grow widely in the United States.

Almonds and English walnuts, once grown in Persia and Italy, are now planted in temperate climates, and may come from almost any country. Cashews, those curious comma-shaped nuts, grow at the bottom of a West Indian fruit.

Pistachios are the kernels inside the heavy stones of dry, inedible fruits. Most of them grow in the Mediterranean region.

Peanuts, the most valuable nut crop in the United States, are natives of the new world and grow best in the southern states.

The pine, or pine nut, is the seed of a small pine cone found on the mountains and mesas of Southwest America. Most of this crop is gathered by Indians, who call them "donde de Dios," or "Gift of God."

THE best-liked nut in the bag, the peanut, isn't a nut at all. Peanuts are the seeds of a plant. When the white blossoms of the peanut plant die, the stems turn downward and bury themselves in the soil. At the end of the stems the pods develop.

Discovered in Brazil by Spanish explorers, the peanuts were taken to Africa and Europe in old galleons, together with pieces of gold and silver and other treasures.

When Negro slaves were taken to America they took peanuts with them, so that now they are popular all over the world.

The peanut is perhaps the most important of nuts for Britain, as a huge scheme is now under way in East Africa to grow millions of them to increase the world supply of oils and fats.

Towns are springing up in Tanganyika, where up to now the land has been just bush and jungle; thousands of square miles will be covered with groundnuts (as peanuts are sometimes called) when the scheme is fully working.

ONE nut from Africa is made into drinks. The cola nut, prized by African natives who think it gives them greater endurance at games, is used as the base of many popular drinks usually designated by the word "cola."

Another commercially important nut will not be found in your bag of mixed nuts. This is the coconut, which provides food, clothing, and shelter for millions of people. It is also the source of important oils. Another important food nut, the chestnut, is popular in many forms and often made into breads and cakes.

We think of nuts as a food, but they have other uses as well. The soap nut of the West Indies makes suds for the family laundry.

The cornubian palm nut is the source of fine waxes and polishes. Corozo nuts from South America, sometimes called vegetable ivory, are carved into buttons and toys.

Nuts from tung oil trees provide a valuable ingredient for varnishes. From bitter almonds, deadly poisons and delicate perfumes are made.

Nut shells are burned to make a fine commercial charcoal. Peanut shells are ground fine and added to commercial fertilizers to keep their contents dry. So if someone says, "Nuts to you!" take it as a compliment. Nuts are important things in the world today.

The Orange Family Was Sweet

—But Their Cousins the Lemons Were Sour—

By MAX TRELL

IT'S a curious thing," Mr. Punch was saying to Knarl and Hanid, the shadow-children with the turned-about names, "but just because one member of a family is nice and sweet, it doesn't always mean that the rest of the family is equally sweet."

The two shadows looked at Mr. Punch with puzzled expressions. They didn't know exactly what he meant.

"For instance," Mr. Punch went on, "take the Orange Family. Orange is as sweet as anything could be. But there's his cousin Lemon. He's a sour one, he is! He belongs to the same family, but what a difference! You'd never think they were related to each other. And then there's Orange's other cousin, Grapefruit. He's not quite as sour as Lemon. But he's not sweet either."

Knarl said: "Lemon and Grapefruit can't help being sour, can they, Mr. Punch?"

How They Grow

"No," agreed Mr. Punch, "that's the way they grow, and that's the way they are."



Though he couldn't help it, Cousin Lemon was sour.

way they are. And take the Apple. A fine, sweet, rosy-checked girl, if ever there was one! But are her cousins sweet?

"Who are her cousins?" Hanid wanted to know.

"Well," said Mr. Punch, "there's Quince, a very sour chap."

"And who else?" asked Knarl.

"Didn't you ever hear of Crab-Apple?" said Mr. Punch. "He's not sweet at all, no sweet!"

Knarl and Hanid were exceedingly surprised to learn about the sweet and sour members of the Orange and Apple Families. "And of course," said Mr. Punch, "there's Pickle who is sour and cucumber who's rather cool and sweet."

"Pickles and cucumbers are the same thing!" Hanid cried.

Mr. Punch didn't seem to hear her. He went right on. "And there's Plum and Prune. Plum is smooth and round. Prune is all wrinkled up, and dry."

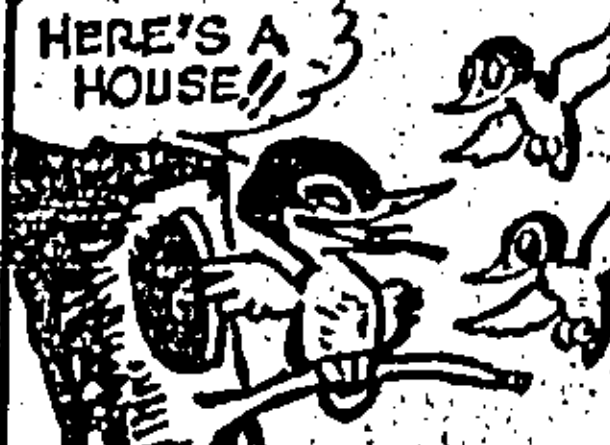
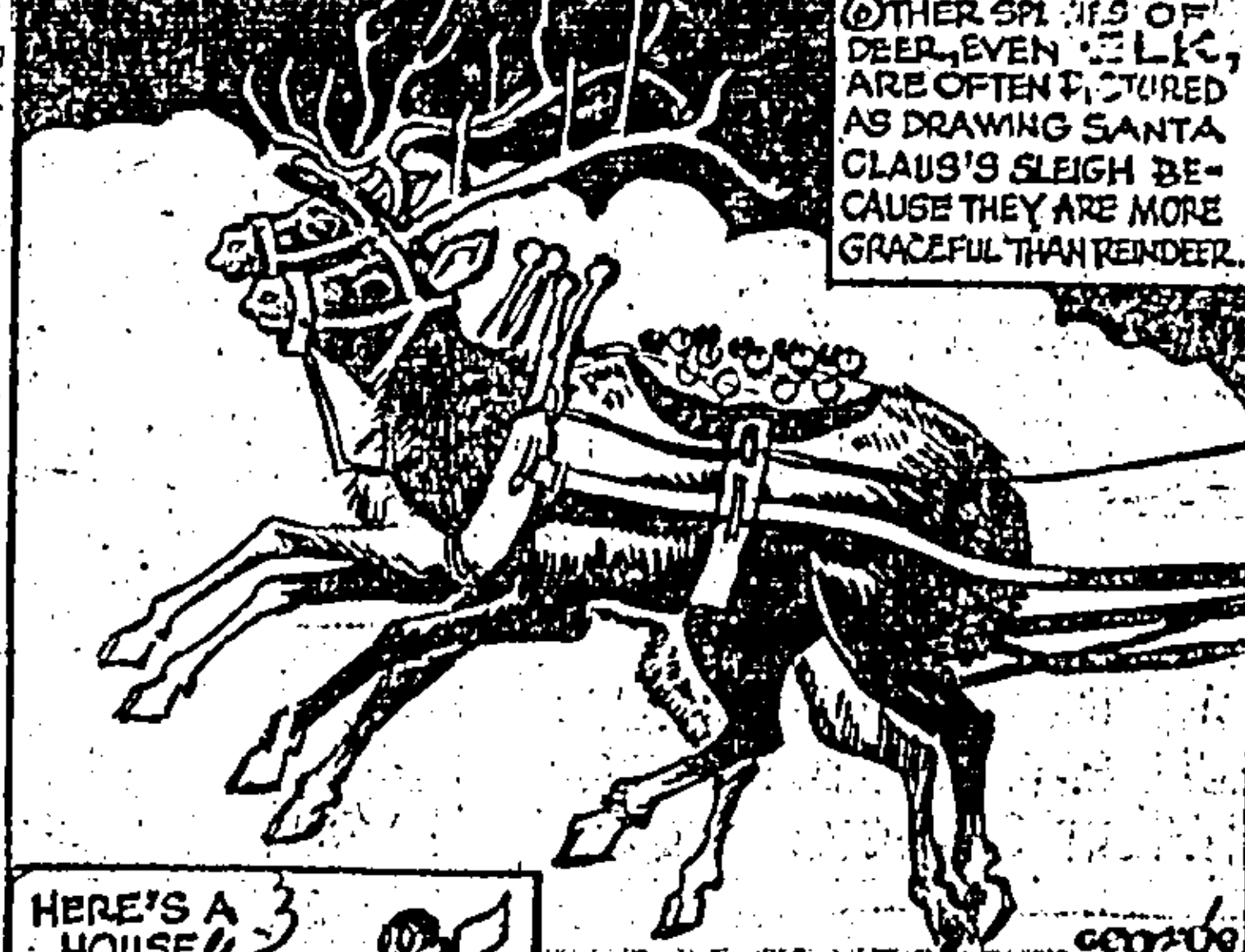
Both The Same

"Plum and prune are both the same thing too!" Hanid said in a loud voice.

"And take Grape and Raisin," said Mr. Punch. "Is there anything prettier than Grape? Is there anything as wrinkled as Raisin?"

"Grapes and raisins are—" Hanid began, in the loudest voice of all. Then Mr. Punch laughed. "Yes, my dear," he said to her. "Cucumbers and pickles, plums and prunes, grapes and raisins are all the same things. But it just goes to show how different the same things can be. And there's one thing I didn't mention at all. Even though some things are sweet, and some things are sour, and some things are wrinkled—all of them are well liked, because," he added, "they're all useful."

ZOO'S WHO



WOODPECKERS HAVE BECOME THE CARPENTERS OF THE BIRD WORLD, MANY SPECIES NOW DEPEND ON HOMES BUILT BY THESE STRONG-BILLED BIRDS.

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By Fred Harman



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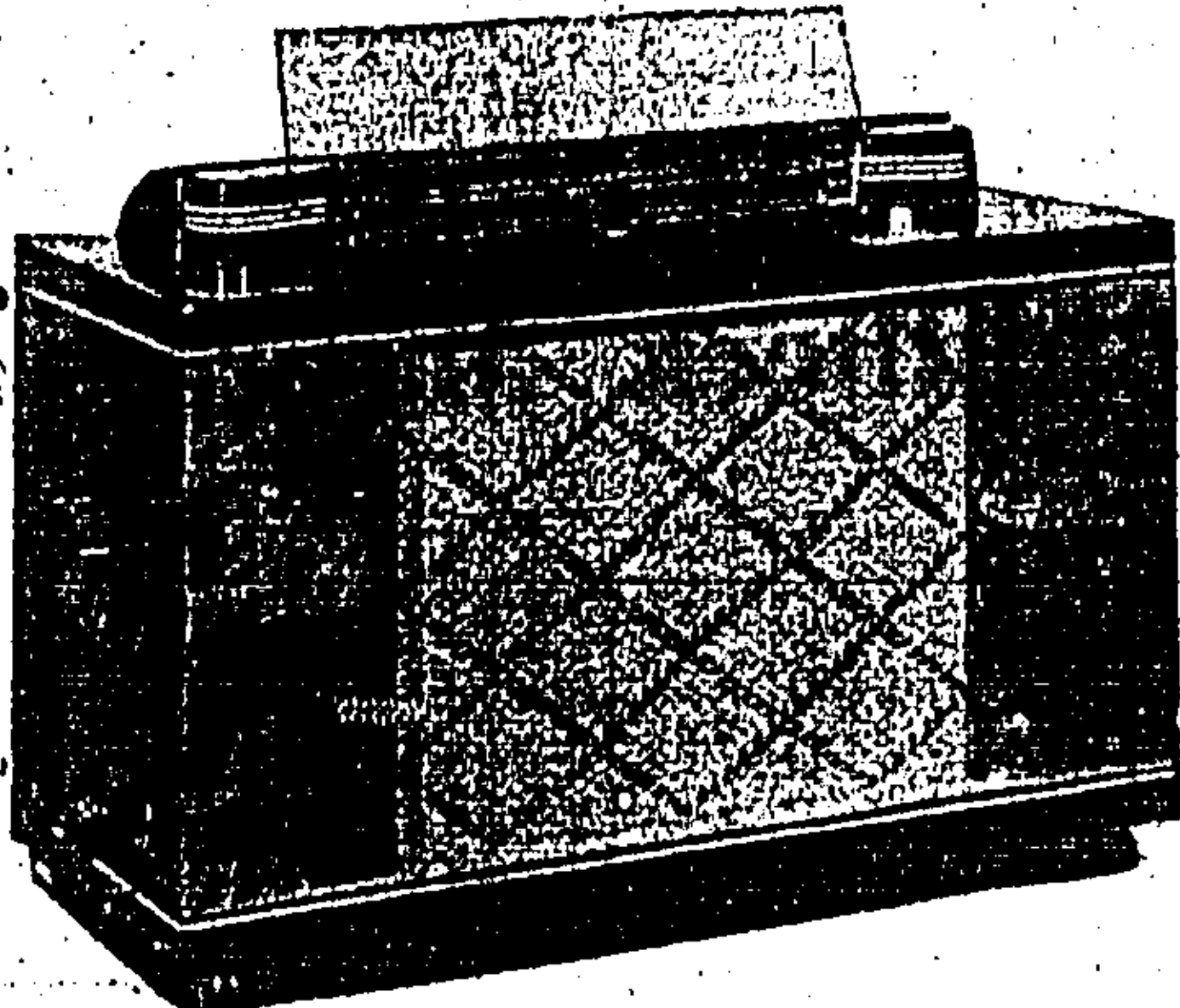
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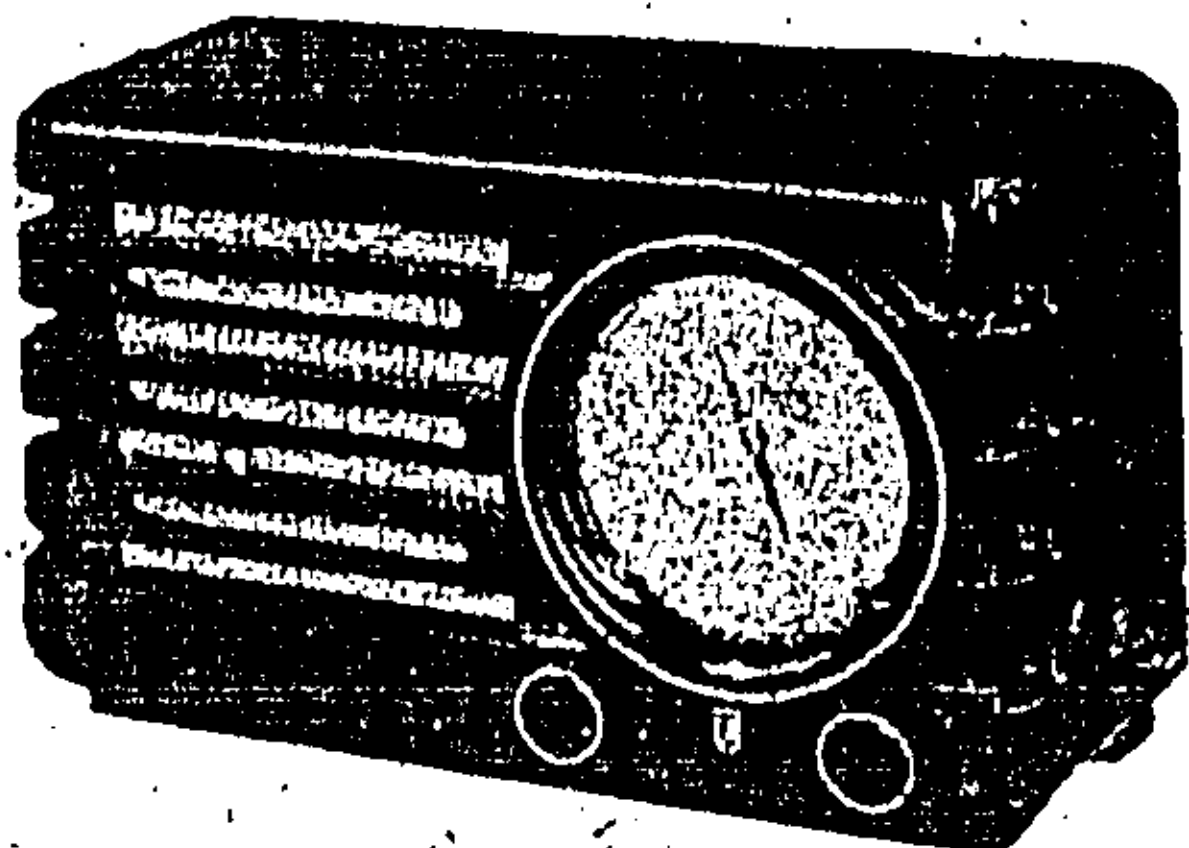
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PHILIPS MODEL BX 387A

Price \$310

The performance of this 4 Valve set with its artistically designed cabinet and the round dial contrasting very well with the horizontal line, is excellent.



PHILIPS BAND-MAGNIFIER

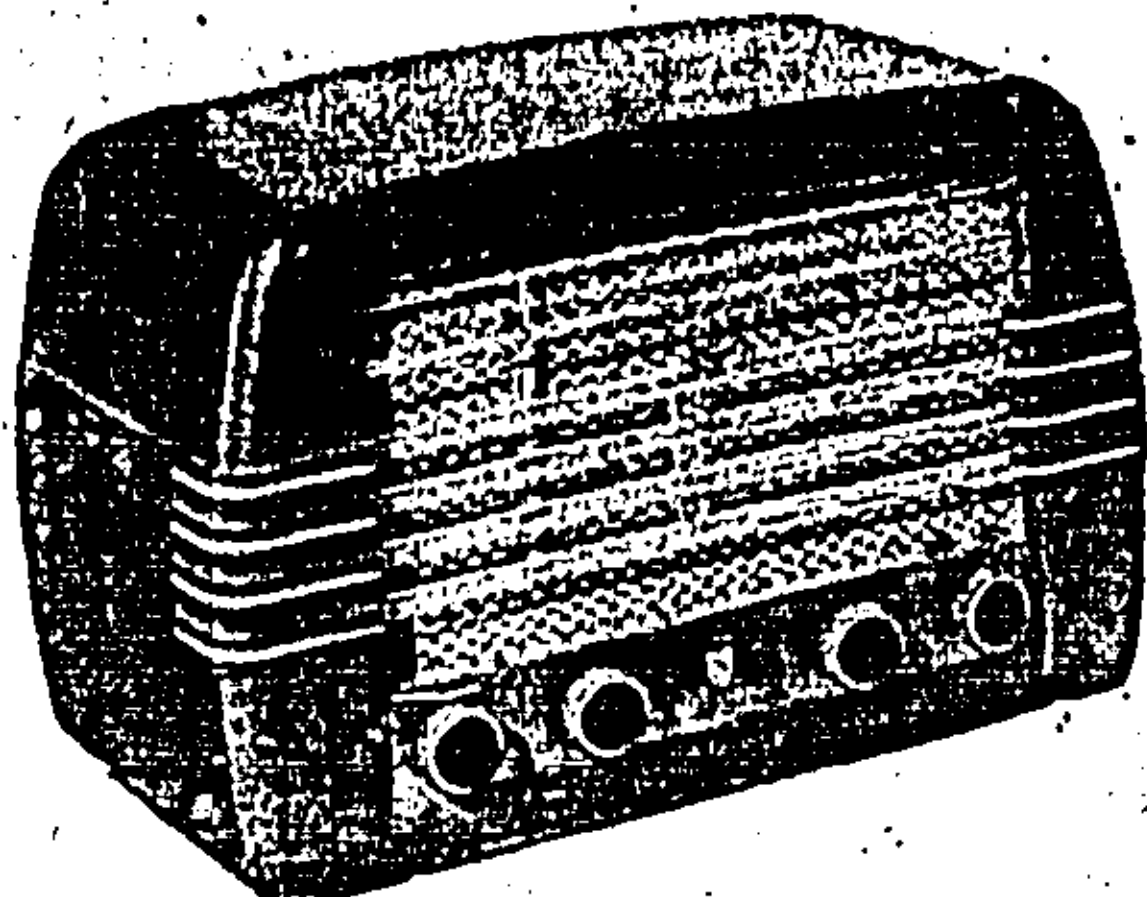
TYPE BX 485A

A 5 Valve "band-magnifier" of high quality Philips bandspread system combined with excellent performance for a much lower price.

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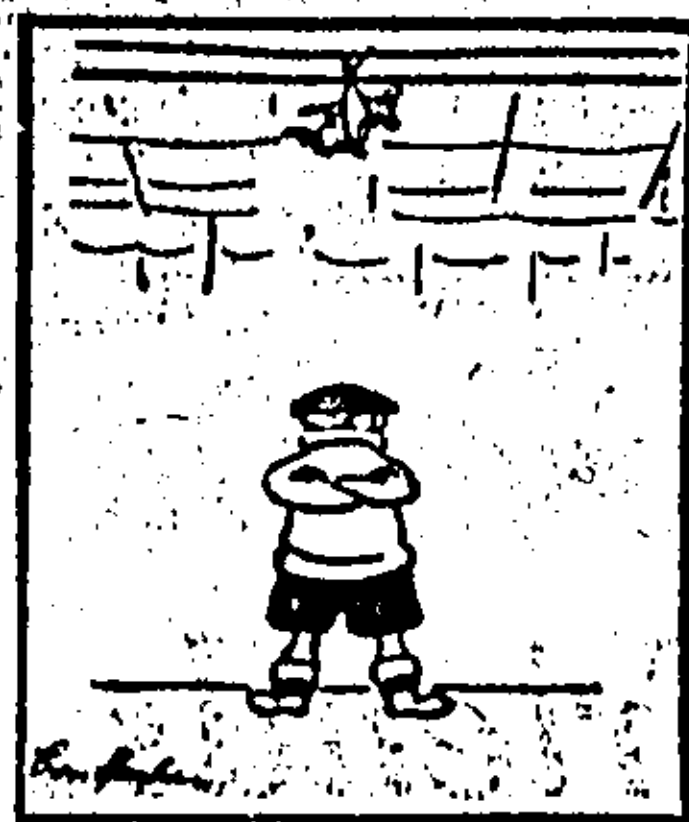


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My Old Partner Has Won Fight Against Bad Luck

By STANLEY MATTHEWS

All the sporting world loves a fighter, and football is full of stories of players who have fought against injury and bad luck—and won.

Which brings me to Willie Hall, former Tottenham and England forward, who refused to give up even though he has lost both legs.

Many men would have lost heart with such a handicap—but not Willie. In partnership with "Spurs" half-back Vic Buckingham he has opened a sports shop, and during the football season will be in sole command.

Willie deserves all the success that will come to him in his new venture. He was one of the finest inside forwards England ever fielded. I know he was a great partner for me, and we had some great days together on the England right wing.

His courage and daring made him a dangerous forward, and he packed a wonderful shot in both feet. Remember that day against Ireland in 1938, when Willie hit five of the finest goals I have ever seen?

They were models of opportunism. He saw the chance and took it with the slightest luck he might have added a couple more to his tally.

I was indeed sorry to hear that Willie had lost his legs following injuries on the field, and often wondered what would happen to him. I need not have worried, knowing the Hall grit.

His playing days over, Hall did the next best thing to keep in the game. He tried his hand at managing and took charge of Leyton Orient for a spell.

But ill-fortune hit him again. He had to face a number of operations, which ended his hopes of taking an active part in football.

Now Willie will sell the ball he could kick so hard, and I guess when he is parcelling up those football boots for a young hopeful his mind will go back to the days when his name meant thrills and goals. Good luck, Willie.

World Soccer Cup

London, Dec. 17.—If a decision made provisionally at a Football Association Council meeting here this week is carried into effect, England, for the first time, will appear in the World Soccer Cup competition.

The next tournament, the final rounds of which will be held in Brazil, will take place in 1950 and, if nothing prevents, England from competing, she will enter her strongest professional side.

Scotland, Wales and Ireland will be making their decision shortly about entering.

There is a proposal that the country winning the British International tournament of the 1949-50 season should be regarded as the British Zone winner and be excused until its competition proper in the world championship.

France, Italy, Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland are among the countries who have so far entered. —Reuter.

368 Substitutes

Argument against substitutes in League Soccer has been dropped, the system might develop on American football lines, with wholesale changes throughout the game.

That is not a possibility but, curiously enough, American football itself is a substitute, a battleground at the moment because of a game in which the Army overwhelmed Stanford University by a cricket score.

The Army made 368 changes and Stanford 110 in a game lasting 60 minutes. When offensive play was called for, the Army sent on a complete team of 11 players specially trained to attack; when the Army had to defend, 11 defensive players took their place. Total action time was reduced to about 20 minutes.

Sequel to an agitation for control of the number of substitutes.

Arthur Peell says

With the cue-ball and last red placed as diagram, striker who covers the opponent by playing a thin stroke could not win.

That is the best play, but it is not a possible double red. The cue-ball is in a position to play a double red, but it is not a possible double red. The cue-ball is in a position to play a double red, but it is not a possible double red.

Well, the snooker should be a certainty to the average amateur, which is more than can be said of the double. Therefore a snooker is a double. A snooker is a double. A snooker is a double. A snooker is a double.

LEAGUE FOOTBALL

WILL THE SAINTS SPOIL SOUTH CHINA'S RECORD

Tomorrow South China "A", whose league record to date is "Played 9: Won 9," meet another formidable challenge. Last Saturday they overcame the battling Chinese Athletic; this week-end it is St. Joseph's turn to try to lower their colours.

The unbeaten Second Division club, Kowloon Motor Buses' juniors, also face a severe test. They are to meet the strong Army (Kowloon) side this afternoon. Kwong Wah, still in search of their first League victory, have a hard, but chancy fixture with Eastern at Kowloon tomorrow.

The most attractive of this afternoon's soccer fixtures quite definitely is the meeting of the Army and the Club at the Navy Ground, Causeway Bay. Players, who were team-mates in last week-end's splendid Governor's Cup victory, are opposed in this match, which should produce the keen football so dear to the hearts of many followers of the game.

The Army's defeat by Kitchener on the Navy Ground last week was among their most unexpected reverses. It is unlikely that they will have the services of Marsden at inside forward. This may be balanced, however, by the introduction of promising new blood into the attack.

The improving Police team has a difficult game with the Kowloon Motor Buses this afternoon—KMB beat the Police twice last season: 3-1 and 4-1.

It is a long while since the RAF registered a league victory. Although the Air Force side includes three or four stalwarts, regularly it is a difficult task for them to field the strong team necessary to keep an end up in local football.

On the other hand South China "B", who entertain the RAF, this afternoon, have been strengthening and cementing their team.

Victory over KMB in the Shield tie, and a well fought draw with the Saints last week, have put South China "B" back in the news again.

Severely shaken by the Army, then by Chinese Athletic last week-end, 100-per cent South China "A" must meet another formidable challenge tomorrow.

GIANT-KILLERS

They are at home to the Saints at Caroline Hill. If nothing else the Saints are giant-killers and removers of records.

When last season's champions, Kitchener, with the early-season aid of such players as Hau Yung-sang, Lau Chung-sang, Soong Ling-sing, Ho Ying-fun and Lai Shui-wing (most of whom will be playing with South China "A" tomorrow); this unbeaten Kitchener team was relieved of its unbeaten certificate by St. Joseph's. One goal was enough.

This South China "A" v. Saints match promises to be another of the most thrilling League encounters of the season. The Saints will draw a very big crowd. South China "A" must expect a hard match.

One hesitates to think that they can proceed much longer winning every League game. This is South China's tenth League game. Hull City won their first nine League matches of this season, losing at Doncaster (2-1) in the tenth.

The attractions of the match at Caroline Hill undoubtedly will draw the crowd away from Causeway Bay, where the Navy, who may field one of their strongest sides of the season, are at home to Chinese Athletic. A victory for the sailors would not be a great surprise.

Higgs, their centre-forward, acquitted himself well as leader of the HKFA attack in Sunday's memorable Governor's Cup match.

CRISP FOOTWORK

Although Higgs was often beaten in the air, he more than atoned for this with crisp footwork and good control of a light ball on a springy ground.

Higgs will be faced with a youthful, but very polished, pivot tomorrow. Mow, of Chinese Athletic, played a fine game against South China last Saturday. This Higgs-Mow duel should be worth watching.

Many critics, among whom I must be included, were despondent concerning the HKFA eleven for the Governor's Cup match. "Once Kitchener had notched the dramatic equaliser, it was astonishing to see the change in the side."

After being panned in their own half for the majority of the first 25 minutes play, they broke free in splendid style.

A lot of people may wonder why the thrifful Tang Yee-kit, of KMB, was not the Federation's centre-forward. Surely he might have scored where all the other forwards failed! As it was, a full back notched the Federation's only goal.

What a pity it was too, that this Governor's Cup match ended with two or three ugly fouls. One does not expect to see players of representative class indulging in the unfair tactics of last Sunday.

Many youngsters model their style of play on their "heroes." Both players and selectors of representative elevens should remember this.

PERENNIAL PASTIME

Once again, however, the perennial pastime of blaming the Referee, when anything goes awry, has broken out. It's fair game; most people do it (without thoughtlessly) and one is unlikely to encounter a dissenting voice.

When questions of foul play arise, however, let us, above all, put first things first. "The suggestion" that certain players were guilty of foul play as a result of weak handling by a Referee puts forward an excuse for unsporting conduct where there is none.

If players disgrace themselves, and the fair name of football, let's say so. Which is worse, is that certain players were guilty of foul play as a result of weak handling by a Referee puts forward an excuse for unsporting conduct where there is none.

Such ideas are the crutches of the weak. Any foul play in last Saturday's Boundary-street match must be laid at the door of the players who committed the fouls.

It is almost as easy to excuse the Referee's penalties, which the players should have avoided, as it is to excuse the players' foul play, which was the result of weak handling, just invited rough play.

SOFTBALL CHATTER . . . By "SPECTATOR"

There Must Be An End To "Sliding"

Last Sunday's big match was marred by a nasty accident that came of dangerous "sliding." George White, who was playing third, had a bone snapped in his leg.

The incident happened in the VRC-Canadian game last Sunday. It was vital that the VRC won to stay in the championship race. They did win and broke a nine-game Canadian winning streak. It was a hard-earned victory. The team that played better ball won.

The victory was unpopular, however. A seething resentment was evident in the Canadian camp over White's injury. Defeat was of no importance comparatively.

Players of the St. Joseph's team who were witnessing the game should have felt glad over the Canuck defeat for that would put them closer to their rivals in the pennant race. But they weren't. They didn't like the incident. There were a couple of others which preceded it. They did not result in a casualty, so it wasn't as bad.

The Madcaps, too—they are also in the running—should be glad of the Canadian loss. But they weren't either. Members of the Kitchener didn't like it, too. Neither were the Chung Wah men.

The umpires agreed later there was dangerous play, but no action was taken to throw a player out of the game. The sympathy of the majority of followers is with George White in his bad luck, but that won't help George at all. That won't mend a broken leg.

The Association will be failing in their duty if it doesn't take steps forthwith to prevent a repetition of such an accident by forbidding "sliding."

THIS WEEK

This week's spotlight is beamed on the rather unexciting between Wildcats and Wahooks. The defending champs are out for revenge against the defeat suffered in the first round at the hands of Buster Holland's Felines. Hal Winglee's Wahooks will have to play a better brand of ball than that seen of them lately if they are to win.

Amongst the men, the Canadians face another stiff hurdle against the Madcaps. George White's absence from the lineup, due to his injury, weakens the infield and the attack is affected as well. The former speed ball hurler—Herb Quon is back in town and may turn out to bolster the power of the League leaders. A defeat will place them in the same position as the Saints, VRC, and Madcaps, in the event of which, the race will be made all the more interesting.

Week-End Stars

It was not a starry week-end in the last time, the VRC-Canadian "show" was a "top." The stars flopped with the show, whether or not deservedly.

However, there are these:

Harry Ayres, Bill McCleane and Hal Wilbur, Americans—the high-flyers Americans blasted the Kitchener game in five places. These performances are hard to beat. Harry hit two home runs and two singles in six times at the plate. Bill homered and included three singles as well in six trips. Hal claimed three safeties in five trips.

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IN THE UNITED STATES, AFTER LEAN YEARS PROFESSIONAL BOXING IS BACK ON ITS FEET

By CORNELIUS RYAN

Competition slowly is putting professional boxing back on its feet in the United States.

Not too many months ago the fight business was at low ebb, with champions refusing to defend against top challengers, the public fed up with mis-matches and dull bouts, and government agencies taking an interest in the rising number of ring deaths.

Today the situation is vastly changed, due entirely to two different kinds of competition—promotional rivalry and competition of boxing with other sports and shows for the "amusement dollar."

Probably the best thing that has happened to boxing in years is the formation of the Tournament of Champions, Inc. to vie with the 20th Century Club in the promotional field.

Freddie Mills is negotiating with both promoters for a lightweight defence against Gas Lesnevich, welter champion Ray Robinson, whose promises usually are worthless, says he will defend against the Tippy Larkin-Charly Fusari winner; lightweight champ the Williams expects to defend against Enrique Bolanos in February.

British boxers are clamouring for a chance at Marmel Ortiz 118-pound duelist now that Ortiz appeared to be well past his peak, and flyweight champ Rino Montanari is negotiating a defence against No. 1 challenger Dado Marino.

There's nothing wrong with boxing that good fights won't cure, said Francis Albertini, veteran writer who recently was made 20th Century Club publicity director. "There's always talent in the sport, and get light matches the boys properly. Talent means something without proper matchmaking."

Albertini's frankness in putting the responsibility on management was good news for the boxing public, which is regarding with confidence the promoters who are interested in the "fun" as in the "dollar"—United Press.

The T-Of-C used a simple formula—money. It guaranteed the fighters a large figure, rather than giving them merely a percentage of the gate.

One started, the frightened 20th Century had to follow suit, and it promptly disposed of Strauss, and elevated a competent boxing manager, Harry Markson, to the top job.

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See 'em for yourself—the new Fall Walk-Overs, crisp as the Autumn air and blending rugged good looks with easy-going Walk-Over comfort. Your choice of styles—in a fit which we check to the fraction of an inch.

SPARE MOMENTS PAGE

EXCLUSIVE 'TELEGRAPH' FEATURE

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By STELLA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

BORN today, you are not one to make friends indiscriminately. Someone who is not intellectually compatible is a constant annoyance to you. This characteristic can prove a severe hardship unless you temper it with tolerance. You have capabilities for genial friendliness, but do not use them often enough. Science, philosophy, psychology all interest you. If you're trained, you might be inclined to enter the Church. Even there, your originality of thought, might make it

difficult for you to conform and you might end up by promulgating new theories which would again set you apart from your fellow men.

Considered by many as rather cold and unemotional, you actually have a craving for the love and understanding of others. You are moody at times and become depressed much too easily. Often strenuous physical exercise will work you out of too much self-examination; at other times, a complete change of scene and activity is the best solution. Be

warned against giving into these temperamental moods lest the habit become increasingly difficult to break.

Attractive to the opposite sex—perhaps because of your external aloofness—you must exert caution in the selection of a marriage partner.

To find what the stars have in store for tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

BORN today, the stars appear to have given you a fortunate aspect. The degree of your ultimate success, however, rests almost entirely in your own hands. If you fully use your abilities, there are no heights to which you may not aspire. If you neglect your talents, you are very likely to become one of those proverbial "square pegs in a round hole" consumed with regrets for the past.

Originality and love for science

can lead you towards experimentation and invention. Your ability to work hard when interested in your subject can bring you commercial success, even in the realm of ideas. You never should shirk the difficult things, for experience gives you breadth of understanding for all humanity.

Learn to conserve your energies for important things. This, perhaps, applies more to those of the fair sex, for among you are those

who should put energies into careers, yet you may not recognise this until middle life. Waste no time in regrets, but broaden your intellectual study; develop latent capabilities and you may be able to enter upon a more rewarding and satisfying life even then!

To find what the stars have in store for tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—Seek a spiritual lift as well as companionable association with close friends. Make a new friend, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—A minor change or a short trip today can bring happiness. Consider new ideas for future development, also.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Take this day out for some serious self-analysis. If you're not getting where you want to go, discover why.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)—Told to routine; don't expect too much and you won't be too disappointed. Moderation is best for you.

ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)—Love and marriage are highly favoured today. Don't permit social obligations to interfere with devotional duties.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—Morning hours are the best for all usual Sunday activities. Rest, relax and restore energies when afternoon comes.

GEMINI (May 22-June 22)—Don't attempt to tackle business matters over this week end. Rest and store up energy for the future.

CANCER (June 23-July 23)—Good for writing a long-postponed letter. Be tactful in romantic matters. Conciliation may be most effective.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—Ambitions are leaping again. Take full advantage of any opportunity offered to further your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 22)—Make this a pleasantly companionable day. Break away from the usual routine and enjoy yourself thoroughly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)—Let mind gain control over matter today. Heed your intuitions on important matters and you'll not stray.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—Social activities should increase your circle of acquaintances right now. Take full advantage of them.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—A neutral day in which tact can make it better one than anticipated. Be alert and co-operative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—Don't expect too much today and you won't be too disappointed by the results. Postpone important decisions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—A day on which to acquire distinct advantage. Heed opportunity and put forth all your energy, productively.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)—Both the social and domestic scene are good although business potentials show the biggest and best gain.

ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)—All dietary efforts are favoured now;

especially letter writing if you are behind. Affairs of children progress. TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—Guard health. In pushing business plans to completion, avoid giving offence in dealing with associates.

GEMINI (May 22-June 22)—Your associates and even the "boss" are apt to give you full recognition for all your past efforts. Profit by it.

CANCER (June 23-July 23)—A good day for action. Make progress in all lines of endeavour now. Whatever your job, improve it.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)—Good for all business matters, but postpone romantic affairs until a more favourable time.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 22)—The upturn is here for you, so take full advantage of all opportunities for advancement.

SKELETON CROSSWORD

THE black squares and clue numbers as well as the words have to be filled in by solvers of this crossword. Four black squares and five clue numbers have been inserted to give you a start.

As the puzzle is symmetrical, the left and right-hand sides balance, and the top and bottom letters correspond. You can therefore fill in 12 clues.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Plays the part of the...
2. A garment which is...
3. I got vic around a...
4. A limited flock, one...
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black squares at once in positions corresponding with those given.

Since there is a 17 Down as well as Across, the square immediately above the one containing the number, and its corresponding one, can also be blocked in.

Except where they may occur in phrases, words of less than three letters are not used.

CLUES DOWN

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BY THE WAY
by Beachcomber

THOSE who sneered at that stupendous publication, the unexpurgated "List of Hunting-donshire Cabmen," little thought that it would set a fashion in literary circles.

Only today there has reached me a review of a book called "Alumni Cantabrigienses," and described as a Biographical List of all known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge, from the Earliest Times to 1900. Compiled by Dr J. A. Venn. Part 2: From 1752 to 1900; Vol. 3: Gabb—Justamond. Pp. 4-619. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1947). £7. 10s. net.

£7. 10s. in the old days would have bought you 150 bottles of Xarollo, or 300 of Benecarlo; or 100 of that Allella which Jose Zafon sold at his house among the woods of Valvedrera in the Catalan springtime. For £7. 10s. you could have walked from Flicke to Mont-de-Marsan and lived well every foot of the way. £7. 10s. would have lodged you for a year with the old botanist of Cambras d'Aze under the peaks of Nuri.

The tomato controversy

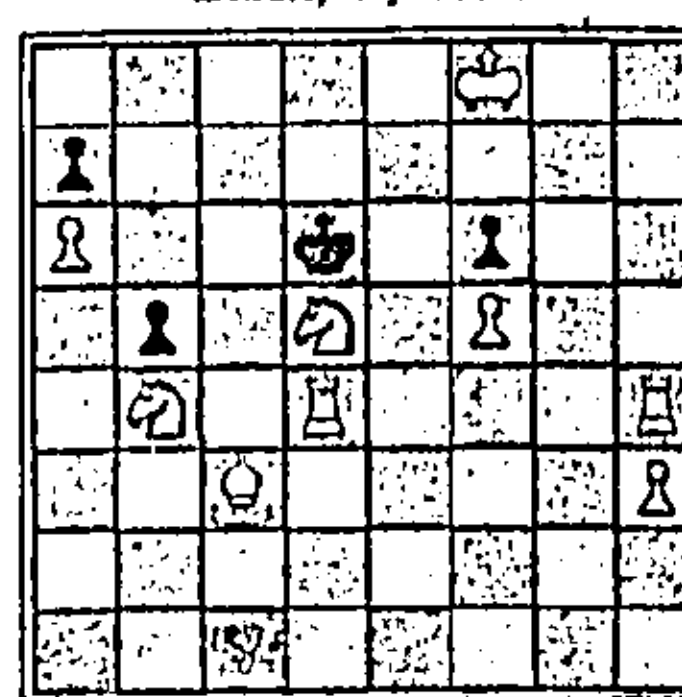
DEAR Sir, Enquirer and Mr Delmege are surely at cross-purposes. If a televised tomato with a stalk appears on the screen with the stalk invisible, what is the point of televising it with a stalk on? Alternatively, it should not be difficult to make a dummy without a stalk. Yrs. truly,

Amy Legros.

Where is Mrs. Wretch?

IT is impossible to keep pace with this epidemic of tomato controversies. There is no need to do them justice. But I must mention,

CHESS PROBLEM

By W. FAULX
Black, 4 pieces.

White, 9 pieces.

White to play and mate in three.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. P-B4, any; 2. Q. R, or K; mates.

McKENNEY
ON BRIDGESuccess Depends On
Failure To Cover

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2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
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95♥	Pass	96♥	Pass
96♥	Pass	97♥	Pass
97♥	Pass	98♥	Pass
98♥	Pass	99♥	Pass
99♥	Pass	100♥	Pass

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

ONE of the real personalities of tournament bridge is J. G. Ripstra, of Wichita, Kan. "Rip," as he is better known to the players, attends tournaments purely for the fun of it. He loves to bid, and when he reached six hearts on today's hand, the kibitzer felt a little quiver of apprehension.

"Rip" played the jack of spades from dummy on the opening lead, and when it held, he immediately knocked out the ace of hearts. East returned the jack of clubs, declarer went up with the ace, picked up the trumps, then led the seven of diamonds. He did not bother with the finesse, but went right up with the ace in dummy and led back the queen of diamonds. East did not cover, so declarer discarded a club. When the queen held the trick, "Rip" hearty laugh indicated that there was no more to it.

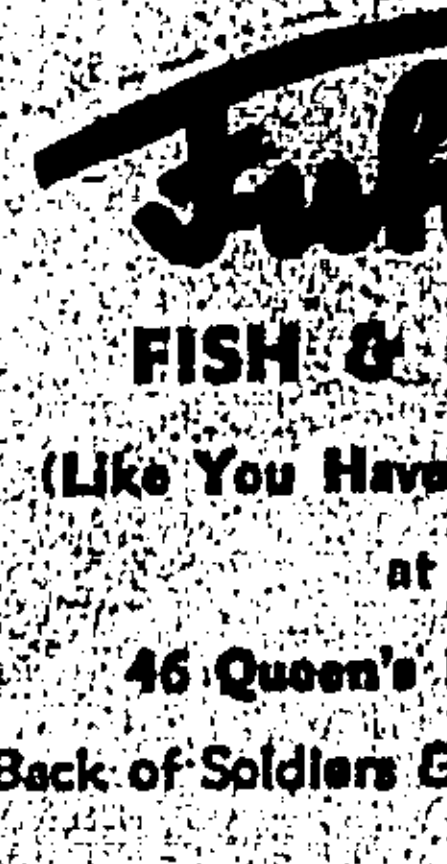
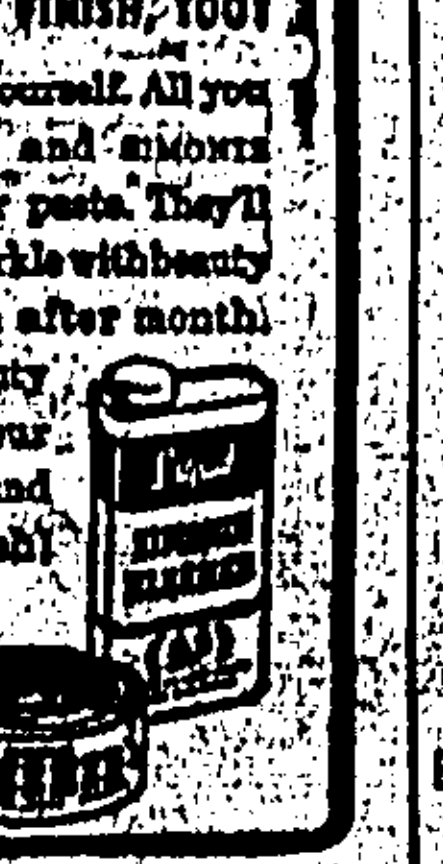
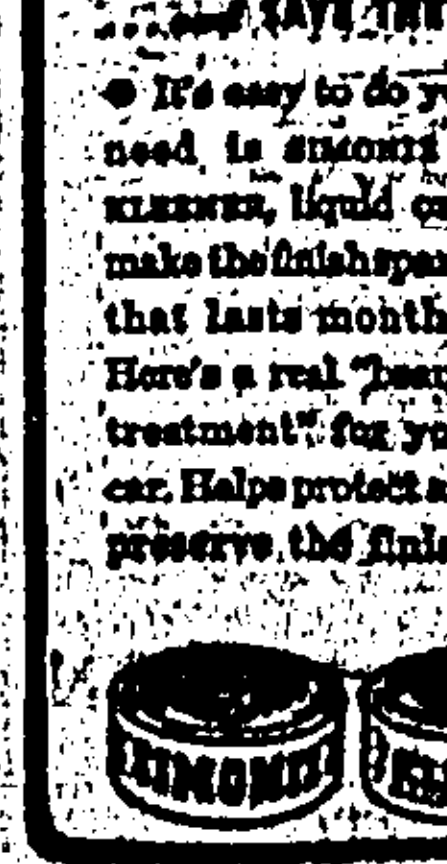
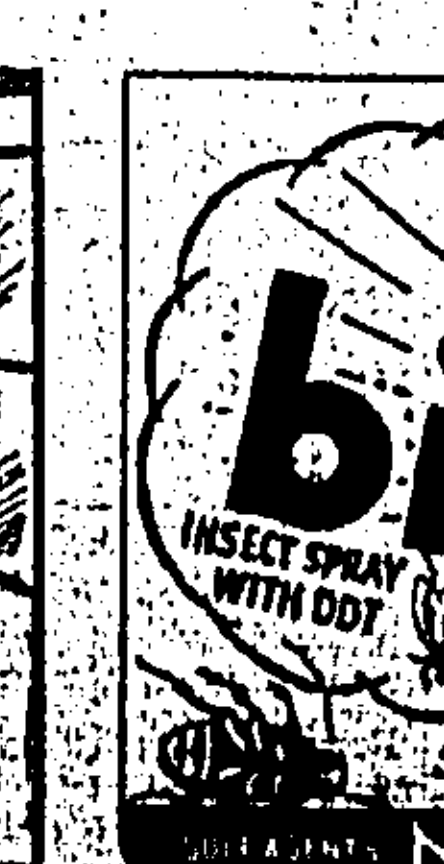
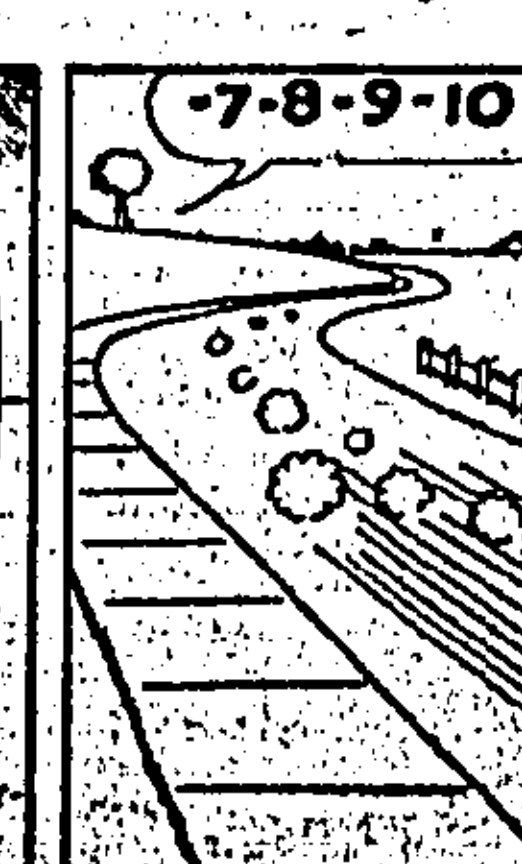
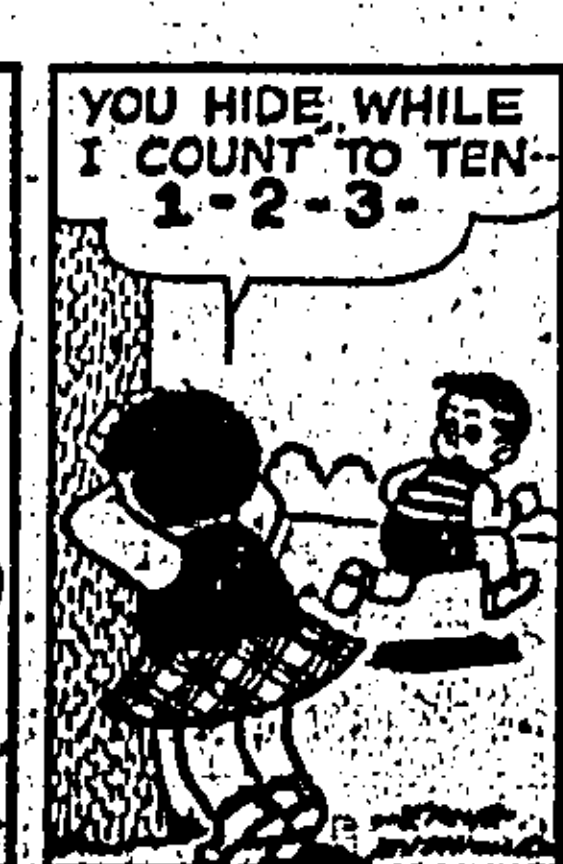
When the hand was over, I asked "Rip" if he had expected to make the hand when the dummy went down. "I certainly did," he replied, "I'm not a pessimist. Can't the cards be where you want them once in a while? And suppose they are wrong, does it really matter? I have only gone down on a tournament hand." Maybe "Rip" has an idea there.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ
ANSWERS

1. (b).
2. (b).
3. (c).
4. (b).
5. (c).
6. (b).
7. (a).
8. (a).
9. (b).
10. (c).
11. (a).
12. (b).

NANCY True to Form

By Ernie Bushmiller



SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



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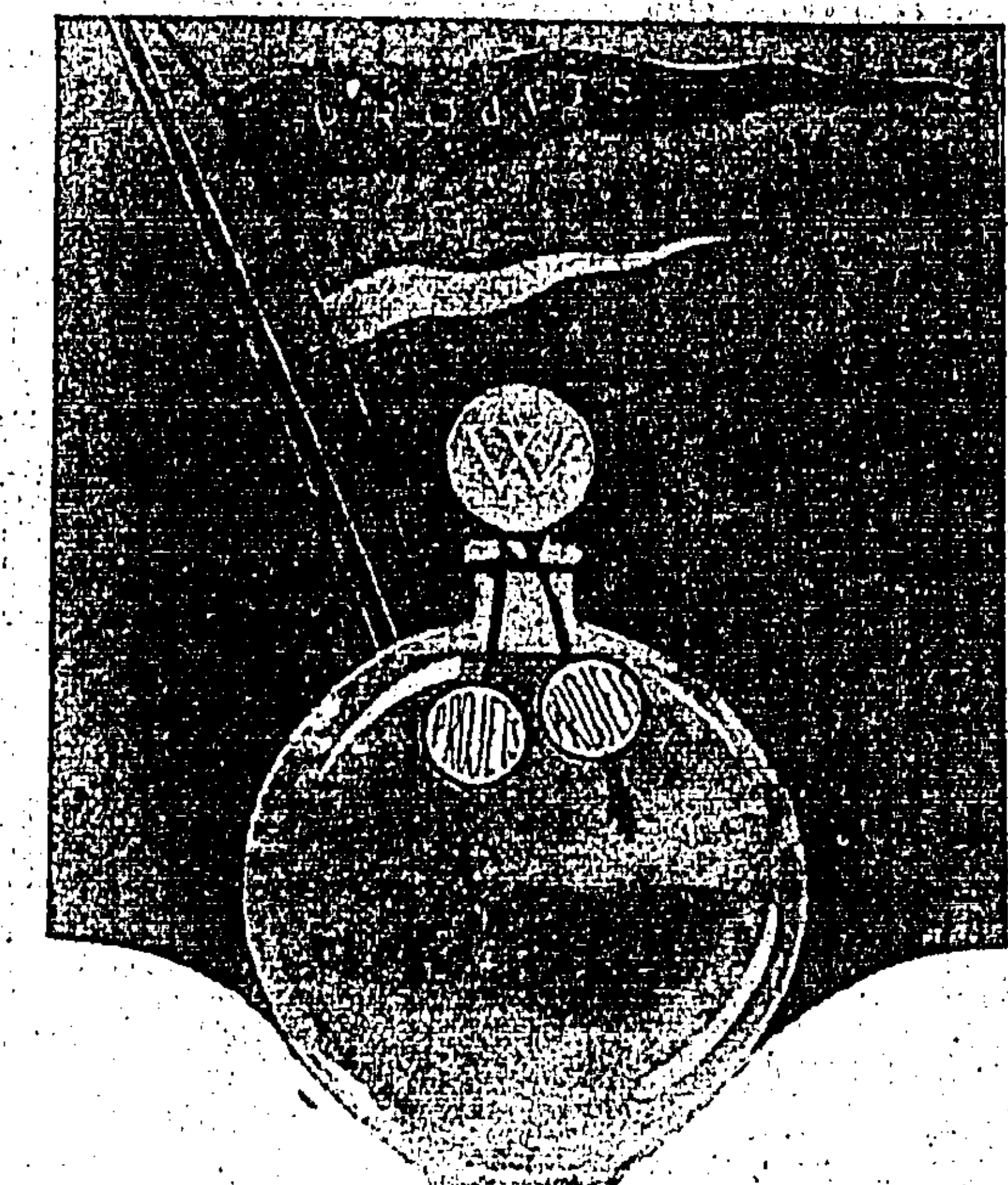
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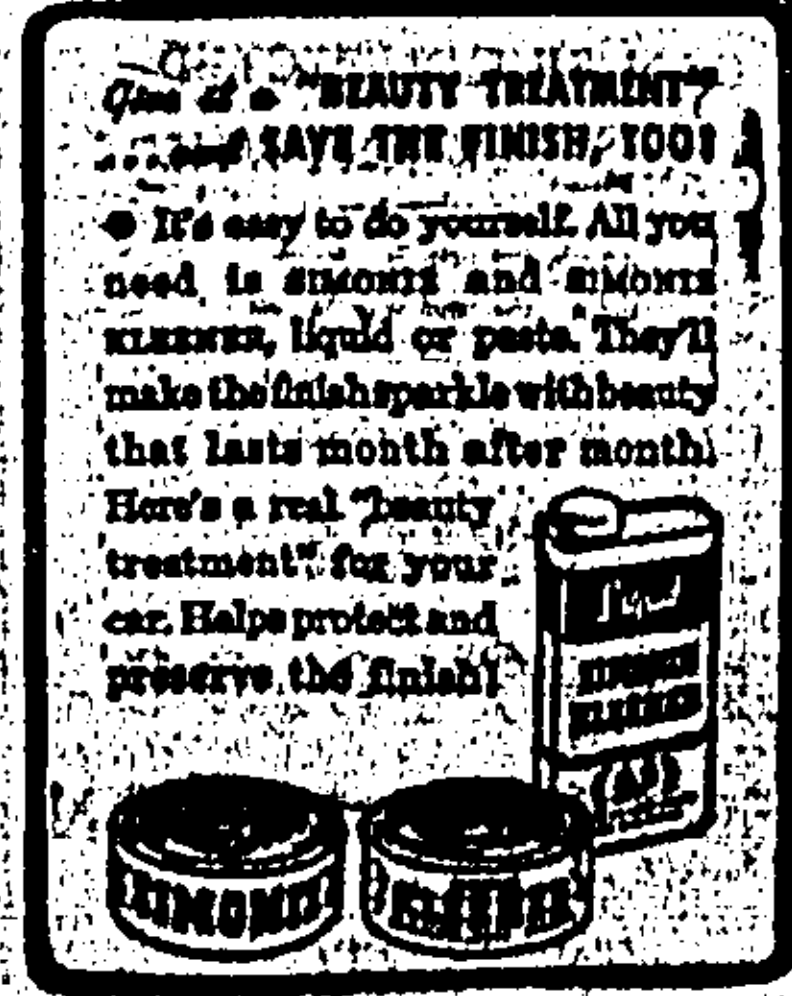
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Britain Said Indefensible In Atomic War

Relief Goods For Palestine Arab Refugees

Genoa, Dec. 17.—Several million dollars worth of food, clothing and medical supplies are to be sent to half a million Palestine Arab refugees in the Middle East.

The director of the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees, Mr. Stanton Griffiths, today signed agreements with the International Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the American Friends Service (Quakers) for the distribution of the supplies.

Mr. Griffiths said all United Nations countries were being asked to rush money or supplies to guard against epidemics and save the lives of cold and underfed children.

Mr. Griffiths leaves Cairo next week to organise the flow of relief supplies through depots in Port Said and Beirut.—Reuter.

European Middleweight Bout Fixed?

Trieste, Dec. 17.—Tiberio Mitri, the Italian middleweight champion, is stated here to have signed a contract to fight Cyrille Delannott, the Belgian holder of the European middleweight title, in Brussels on January 22.

The Belgian title will be at stake, according to these reports. Preparation for the training of Mitri, who recently fought a draw with the British champion, Dick Turpin, in a final eliminator for the European title, has been delayed because the Italian champion has been suffering from influenza.

In London, Charles Donmall, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, stated tonight: "In my opinion, the European Boxing Union will not sanction the match as for the European title now held by Delannott."

He added: "Mitri will first have to meet Dick Turpin, the British champion, in a final eliminator."

Earlier this week the British Boxing Board of Control refused Turpin permission to fight Delannott for his European crown, saying that another elimination bout with Mitri was necessary.

SAVOLD V. TANDBERG?
Oslo, Dec. 17.—Lee Savold, the American heavyweight who recently lost to Bruce Woodcock in London on a disqualification, is interested in a fight with Ole Tandberg, the Swedish champion, but the fight must take place in Oslo.

Savold's manager, Bill Daley, stated this here today after he had a meeting with Tandberg's manager, Mr. Pelton, at which an agreement was reached in principle, but no definite arrangements were made.

Tandberg caused a big boxing surprise in July, 1947, when he outpointed Joe Baisel, the American conqueror of Woodcock, in Stockholm.—Reuter.

TENNIS INVITATIONS
Paris, Dec. 17.—Henri Cochet, a member of the famous "French Musketeer" lawn tennis team 20 years ago, has been invited to play in a tournament organised by the Real Tennis Club Del Turo, of Barcelona, from December 22 to 26.

Invitations have also been received by Madame Nellie Landry, the French women's champion, and the Belgian pair, Jacques Kelen and Milo Myrland de Bormann.—Reuter.

RETURN MATCH
Paris, Dec. 17.—The directors of the Stockholm football club, AIF, which was beaten by Paris last Sunday, have invited Paris to a return match in Stockholm on May 23 or 24 or June 4 or 10.

The Paris Football League has not yet decided which date to accept.—Reuter.

AUSTRALIAN RADAR EXPERT'S OPINION

Sydney, Dec. 17.—Britain would be indefensible in atomic warfare, but the number of atomic bombs which could be made in the foreseeable future could not cripple either Russia or the United States, Dr. David F. Martyn, the Australian radar expert, said today.

AMERICA TO TIGHTEN SPY LAWS

Washington, Dec. 17.—The Attorney General, Mr. Tom Clark, said today that he probably would ask the new Congress to extend the period in which persons could be tried for espionage. He said the proposed extension was one of several measures being considered by the Justice Department to tighten by-laws.

The present statute of limitations prevents the Government from prosecuting persons suspected of espionage if more than three years have elapsed since the spying occurred.

Mr. Clark said the Department also was considering legalising wiretapping "under proper restrictions," and strengthening the alien registration laws and other statutes covering persons and groups advocating the violent overthrow of the Government.

The Attorney General made his statement as it was revealed that the former Soviet Foreign Minister, Maxim Litvinov, and the late British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, figured prominently in four spy papers which the State Department has refused to clear for publication.

COLLECTIVE SECURITY
At the time the documents were stolen from the State Department in 1938, Mr. Chamberlain was the chief exponent of appeasement of Hitler and Mr. Litvinov was playing a leading role in the "collective security" policy against the Axis.

The four papers were part of 200 which Whitaker Chambers turned over to the House Un-American Activities Committee. The Committee released the last batch today, making public all but those four.

It was reported that both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Litvinov figured prominently in the cables. The Acting Secretary of State, Robert Lovett, told a press conference the Department objected to publication of these papers on the ground that they might endanger the persons concerned. The papers were said to contain confidential information from non-American sources who were still alive and who might be placed in jeopardy.

Mr. Litvinov, considered the Soviet envoy most friendly to the United States, was ousted by Stalin in 1939.—United Press.

Tanks In Action In Kashmir

New Delhi, Dec. 17.—The Indian Defence Ministry announced today that enemy tanks have gone into operation for the first time in the Naushahru area in Kashmir.

A communique said that enemy shelling started two days ago and continued yesterday. Indian aircraft also encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire.

It said that one of the planes was reported to have been hit, but all of them returned safely.—United Press.

NEW POLICE RANK

The Gazette notifies that the Governor has appointed the following officers to be Assistant Commissioners of Police with effect from October 1, 1948:

Mr. W. P. Thompson, Mr. K. A. Bldmead and Mr. G. S. Wilson.

Dr. Martyn, who recently returned from Europe, said Britain's ports could easily be knocked out in an atomic war. Radio-activity would prevent reconstruction of port facilities, and Britain would be starved within a short period.

With Britain facing starvation and defeat in atomic warfare, her only hope of survival would be the mass migration of 20,000,000 people to the Dominions.

Dr. Martyn said Britain appeared to have no defence policy to meet atomic warfare.

Britain had five to 10 years in which to prepare, assuming it would take the Soviet Union that period to develop her atomic potential. Vast planning on a Commonwealth-wide basis was needed "and needed soon," he said.

Dr. Martyn is head of the Radio Research Section of the Australian Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. He added that in Russia and the United States, industrial areas are so dispersed that an impossible number of atomic bombs would be required to put them out of action.

The latest bombs could devastate an area of several square miles. Dr. Martyn added that the Bikini atom bomb tests showed that radio-activity carried by water spray from bombs dropped in the water lasted a considerable time.

Detectors had been perfected to warn the Western powers of the testing of atomic bombs by the Soviet Union or any other country.—Reuter.

MORE WHEAT FOR BRITAIN

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—Ninety per cent of Canada's wheat surplus of 230,000,000 bushels will go to Britain at an average price of \$2.03 a bushel, it was reported today.

The remainder will go to other countries at the prevailing price of \$2.40 a bushel.

The latest estimate, issued today, said Canada's 1948-49 wheat crop would reach 393,300,000 bushels, compared with 330,800,000 bushels for 1947-48.—Reuter.

Fresh apples and lambskins (Karakul) have been deleted from the Schedule to the Prohibited Exports Order, 1948, it is notified in the Gazette.

WEEK-END SPORT

TODAY

Cricket—First Division League: Optimists v. RAF at Cha Road; Army v. Scorpions at Sookunpoo; IRC v. Recrelo at Sookunpoo; Craigengower v. University at Happy Valley; KCC v. Royal Navy at Cox's Path.

Second Division League: Recrelo v. IRC at King's Park; Royal Navy v. KCC at King's Park.

Football—First Division League: Army v. Club at Causeway Bay; South China "B" v. RAF at Caroline Hill; KMB v. Police at Boundary Street (Kick-off at 4 p.m.).

Second Division League: Navy v. Dockyard at Causeway Bay; KMB v. Army (K'n) at Boundary Street; University v. PCA at St. Joseph's (Kick-off at 2.30 p.m.); St. Joseph's v. Police at St. Joseph's (Kick-off at 4 p.m.).

Burgly—Quadrangular Tournament: Club v. Royal Navy, 8.15 p.m.; Army v. RAF & Police, 4.15 p.m., at Happy Valley.

Softball—At Recrelo Ground: Canadians v. Pirates, 2.30 p.m.; Rangers v. Pirates, 4 p.m.

Teams—Ladies' Recreation Club Tournament Finals, from 2.30 p.m.

TOMORROW

Cricket—KCC v. HKCC Occasional, at Cox's Path, 11 a.m.

Football—First Division League: Navy v. CAA at Causeway Bay; Kwong Wah v. Eastern at Boundary Street; South China "A" v. St. Joseph's at Caroline Hill (Kick-off at 4 p.m.).

Second Division League: Talkoo v. Tramways at Causeway Bay; CAA v. Solicitors at Boundary Street; Kitching v. Wai Yee at Caroline Hill; Army (HK) v. South China at Sookunpoo (Kick-off at 2.30 p.m.).

Hockey—Association Fixtures: University v. Navy at King's Park, 10.30 a.m.; Civil Service v. Chinese at King's Park, 10 a.m.; Police v. Dockyard RC at King's Park, 10 a.m.; Army v. YMCA at Sookunpoo, 10 a.m.

Softball—At Recrelo Ground: Wildfires v. Mohawks, 9 a.m.; VRC v. American, 10.30 a.m.; St. Joseph's v. Chung Hwa, 10.30 a.m.

At CBA Ground: Philippines v. Overseas Chinese, 9.30 a.m.; Madcaps v. Canadians, 2.30 p.m.; Wildfires v. Wahoon, 3.30 p.m.



Franco-Italian Customs Union?

Rome, Dec. 17.—Plans to unite France and Italy in a customs union may be discussed by the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, and the French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, when they meet next Tuesday at Cannes.

Officials of the Italian Foreign Office gave no precise details of the agenda, saying the two Ministers will examine "the European situation in general and Italian-French relations in particular."

It is hoped in Rome that the customs union plan, which would embrace 100 million Europeans, will come into being by January 1, 1950. Italy's colonial problem is also likely to be examined, with other European and world problems in which both nations are actively interested.—Reuter.



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News contributions, always welcome, should be addressed to the Editor, business communications and advertisements to the General Manager.

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CHURCH NOTICES

GOSPEL HALL

(Doddell Street, Hong Kong)

(Between the Bank of China and the National City Bank of New York)

Sunday 11 a.m. Breaking-of-Bread, (for Bedy women only).

Sunday 8 p.m. Gospel Service.

Monday 8 p.m. Special Meeting for members of the Forces at No. 12, Chatham Road (1st floor), Kowloon.

Tuesday 8 p.m. Bible Study.

Thursday 8 p.m. Prayer Meeting. All English speaking friends are welcome.

EMMANUEL CHURCH

(118 Nathan Road, Kowloon)

Saturday Evening Prayer Meeting, 6.30, 25 Austin Avenue.

Sunday Morning Divine Service, 11.30, Preacher, Dr. Leckmire Clift.

Sunday School, 9.30 a.m.

Evening Service, 8.00, Preacher, Rev. Victor Barnett.

Tuesday Morning, 10.30, Women's Bible Study Group, 25 Austin Avenue. Visitors welcome.

Wednesday Evening, 8.00, Song Service and Fellowship Meeting. Followed by Social Half Hour.

Friday Evening, being Christmas Eve, there will be an A.B.C. Meeting.

Christmas Day Service, 9.30 a.m. Friends able to contribute plants and cut flowers for the decoration of the Church, are asked to bring them any time on Friday afternoon.

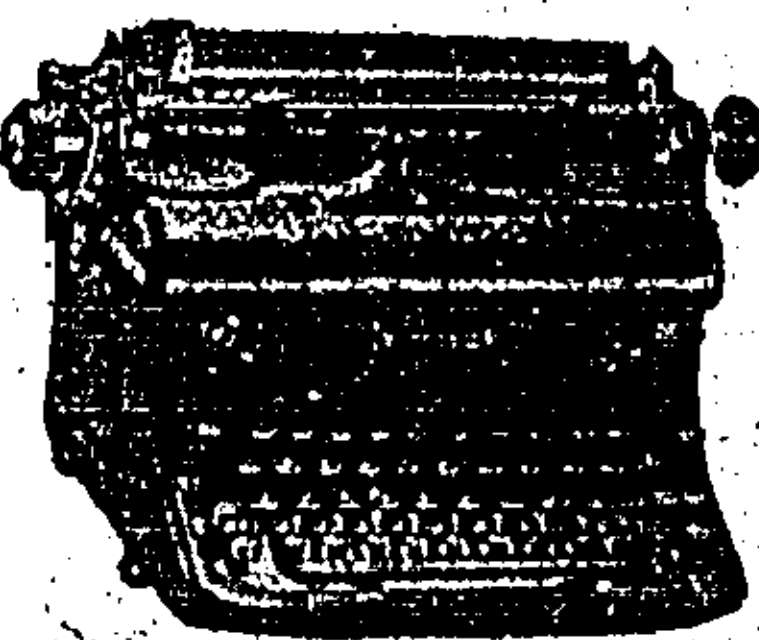
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